ATHLON SPORTS

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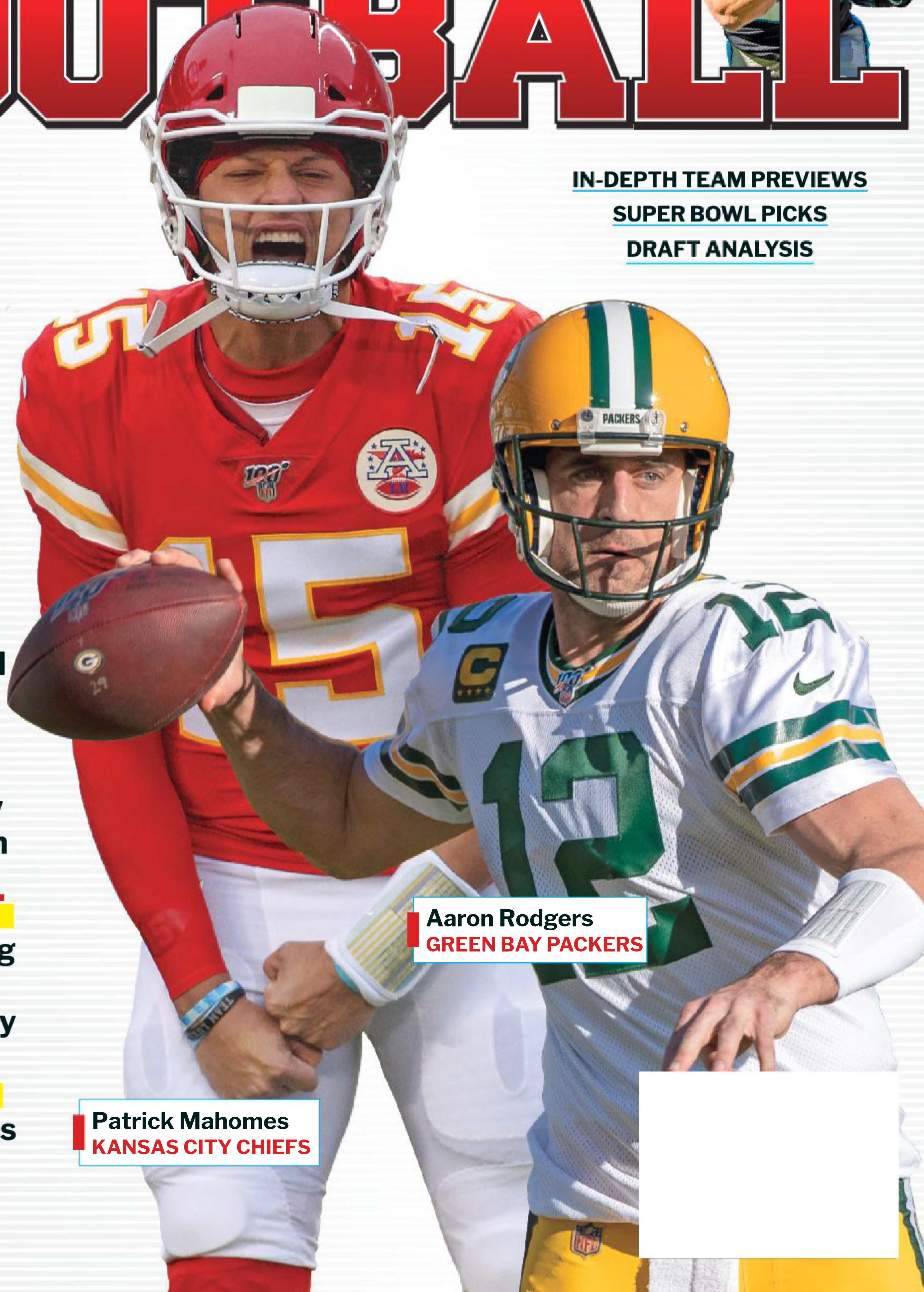

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Giant Slayer

As Tom Brady grabs all the offseason attention with his move from New England to Tampa Bay, we pause to remember the man who beat him in two Super Bowls. Eli Manning heads into retirement carrying the satisfaction of a great career and two rings at Brady's expense.

Bob Leverone/Sporting News via Getty Images

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Editor's Letter

In April 2019, the mammoth and ever-growing spectacle that is the NFL Draft descended on my hometown of Nashville, consuming the downtown neighborhood known as Lower Broadway with hundreds of thousands of fans of all 32 teams (along with some local curiosity seekers, no doubt) and famously crowding out the bachelorette parties and pedal taverns that normally populate the area. It was a memorable scene, and Nashville was up to the challenge, putting on a once-in-a-lifetime show for the attendees, draftees, team executives, broadcasters and the millions of viewers at home.

What would Las Vegas do for an encore? There was little doubt entering 2020 that Sin City would try to one-up Music City in the spectacle department, and when plans leaked that the draft picks would journey to the draft stage at the Bellagio by boat, we all found our appetites whetted for the ultimate show courtesy of the Entertainment Capital of the World.

Like nearly everything else, though, those dreams were dashed by the reality of the COVID-19 pandemic. Out of necessity, the draft went virtual, isolating the players, executives and coaches in their living rooms and kitchens and robbing fans of the pleasure of booing commissioner Roger Goodell in person (kudos to the Commish for playing along and allowing virtual boos to rain down on him in his Westchester County man cave).

Visually, it was nothing like we had anticipated. No glitz, no bright lights, no boats, no fountains. (Though Kliff Kingsbury's palatial living room and sprawling backyard were something to see.)

But a funny thing happened. The broadcast shattered viewership records. NFL fans sat glued to the screen as the television crews improvised a stripped-down broadcast that hearkened back to the days when execs hunkered down in isolation and did their draft work by phone.

Such is the unifying power of football. At a time when uncertainty ruled our lives, we rallied together to share in this annual ritual welcoming new heroes into our lives and living rooms, even if it barely resembled the large-scale production we had grown accustomed to.

And now, we eagerly await the real thing. Football season can't get here fast enough. We hope this magazine tides you over and gives you the information that you crave, and that the 2020 season delivers on the promise of a return to something resembling normalcy.

Rob Doster

Rob Doster, Managing Editor

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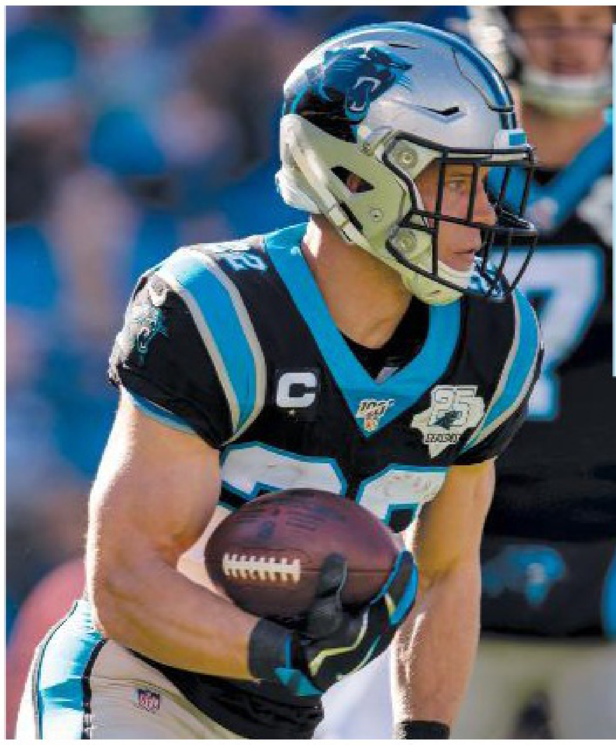

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Brady: Joe Robbins via AP; McCaffrey: Peter Brouillet

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ATHLON OUTDOORS
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Rob Gronkowski and Tom Brady

16 Things to Watch in 2020

BY CHAREAN WILLIAMS

1

REUNITED

It took only 32 days for Rob Gronkowski to decide that a year away from football was long enough. Tom Brady signed with the Buccaneers in March. Gronkowski followed in April.

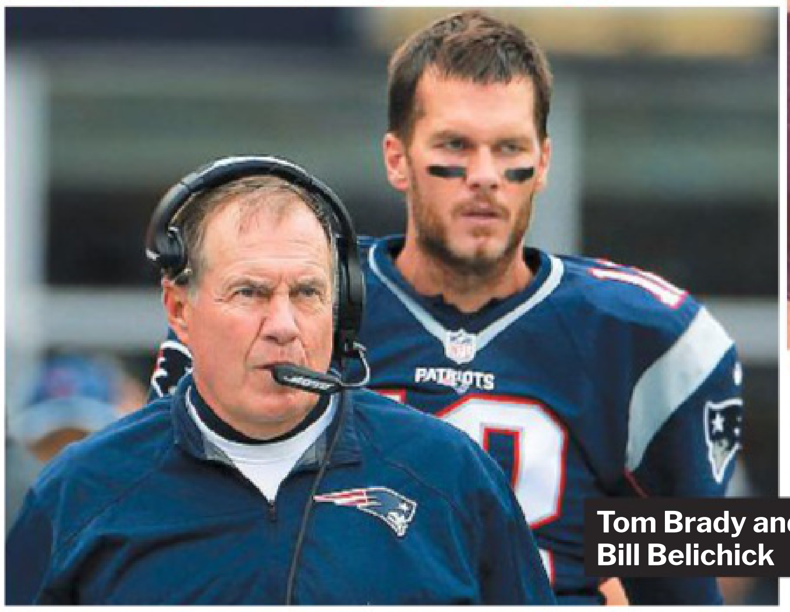
Gronkowski forced the cash-strapped Patriots' hand by telling them he was coming out of retirement. They quickly sent Tampa Bay a fourth-round selection (No. 139 overall) in exchange for Gronkowski and a seventh-round pick.

Gronkowski, who turned 31 in May, said his desire to play returned not long after the 2019 season, when he worked out with Brady. Wherever Gronkowski was going, it was going to be with his former QB.

Gronkowski and Brady spent nine seasons together in New England, combining for 78 touchdowns. That mark ranks second all-time among quarterback-tight end connections and is fifth in league history among all duos. The 7,786 regular-season yards from Brady to Gronkowski also rank second among all quarterback-to-tight end combinations, trailing only Philip Rivers and Antonio Gates (9,352).

In other words, they are good together.

The Bucs' Super Bowl odds went from 17-1 to 14-1 after Gronkowski joined them. He was a major part of two Super Bowl championships in New England. Can the duo win another?



Tom Brady and Bill Belichick

Gronkowski: Logan Bowles via AP; Belichick: Jim Davis/The Boston Globe via Getty Images

2

Belichick or Brady? Brady or Belichick?

Tom Brady and Bill Belichick teamed up for 219 regular-season victories and 30 more in the postseason, including six Super Bowls, in 20 seasons. It spurred the eternal debate that surely will extend into this season: Was Belichick or Brady more responsible for the Patriots' success?

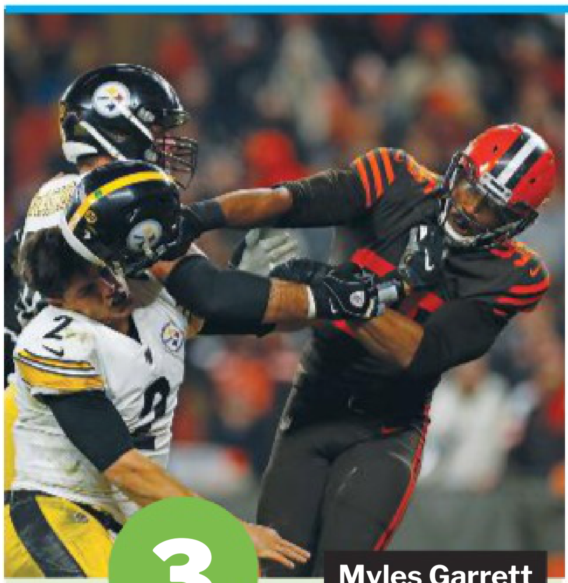
Those who say it was Brady point to the fact that Belichick went to the postseason only once in five seasons in Cleveland and was 5–11 with Drew Bledsoe at quarterback in 2000 before Brady became the starter.

Those who say it was Belichick point to the fact that the Patriots went 11–5 in 2008 with Matt Cassel starting 15 games after Brady injured his knee.

Brady doesn't appreciate the argument, using an expletive on the Howard Stern show to make his point.

"I can't do his job, and he can't do mine," Brady said. "So, the fact that you could say 'Would I be successful without him? The same level of success?' I don't believe I would have been. But I feel the same vice versa as well. To have him allowed me to be the best I can be. I'm grateful for that, and I very much believe he feels the same about me because we've expressed that to each other."

Still, everyone is going to judge the two against each other this season. Is the Patriots dynasty dead? Will the Bucs make the postseason for the first time since 2007?



Myles Garrett

3

Myles Garrett's redemption tour

Browns defensive end Myles Garrett lost his mind in a Nov. 14 game against the Steelers. He has not played since ripping off Mason Rudolph's helmet and bashing him over the head with it. The league levied an indefinite suspension that kept Garrett off the field for the final six games of the season. NFL commissioner Roger Goodell reinstated Garrett in the offseason.

Garrett, the No. 1 overall pick in 2017, has 30.5 sacks and 65 quarterback hits in 37 career games. But bad judgment, cheap shots, penalties, fines and a suspension have left Garrett wearing a scarlet C for cheap-shot.

Officials called Garrett for three 15-yard penalties last season before his fight with Rudolph. Two roughing the passer penalties against Trevor Siemian, the last one knocking the Jets quarterback out for the year with an ankle injury, cost Garrett $42,112. Garrett lost another $10,527 for hitting Titans tight end Delanie Walker in the facemask with an open hand.

If Garrett can find a way to play within the rules while still maintaining his aggressiveness, he has a shot at All-Pro and Defensive Player of the Year honors this season. Garrett, 24, was on his way to at least a second Pro Bowl last season with 10 sacks, 18 QB hits and two forced fumbles in 10 games.

It seems unlikely, though, that anything Garrett does will repair his reputation. What's done is done.

4 Rivers runs through Indianapolis

Philip Rivers and Frank Reich

The Colts got lucky in their quarterback situation, going from drafting Peyton Manning with the No. 1 overall choice in 1998 to taking Andrew Luck No. 1 overall in 2012. They endured only four losing seasons in the 21 years of Manning and Luck, with one of those coming in Manning's rookie year, one when Manning missed the entire season with a neck injury and one when Luck missed the entire season with a shoulder injury.

But Luck unexpectedly retired before last season, and Jacoby Brissett did not prove up to the task. Brissett, 27, went 7–8 with 18 touchdowns, six interceptions and an 88.0 passer rating while failing to move the ball downfield. On March 21, the Colts signed Philip Rivers to a one-year deal in free agency.

Rivers, 38, is a bridge, although he doesn't necessarily view it as a short-term rental. He has said he wants to play two more years. Rivers threw 20 interceptions and lost three fumbles last season, but Colts head coach Frank Reich says Rivers' physical skills haven't diminished. The two spent time together with the Chargers, which should help Rivers' acclimation.

The Colts have made the postseason only once the past five seasons, but, if Reich is right, they could win the division for the first time since 2014. It does seem unlikely the Colts will get a chance to select a franchise quarterback with the No. 1 overall choice anytime soon.

Mark Davis

5

GAMBLING ON LAS VEGAS

Since their inception in 1960, the Raiders have never called anywhere except California home. They were in Oakland aside from the 13 seasons in Los Angeles from 1982-94. That will change this season.

The Raiders are moving to Las Vegas. More specifically, the Raiders will play their home games in Paradise, Nev., at the new $1.9 billion Allegiant Stadium.

The Raiders had the "Black Hole" at the Oakland Coliseum but not much else. The stadium was a dump. It did not provide much of a home-field advantage in recent seasons.

The team's new 65,000-seat stadium will have all the modern amenities and could provide a home-field advantage, too. Of course, it will help if the Raiders are competitive.

Linebackers Cory Littleton and Nick Kwiatkoski, defensive back Damarious Randall, defensive tackle Maliek Collins, tight end Jason Witten and safety Jeff Heath were among the offseason acquisitions. The Raiders, who were 7–9 last season, will have to make a big jump to catch the Chiefs in the AFC West. So the Raiders will open the season as long shots.

Garrett: Aaron M. Sprecher via AP; Rivers: AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin; Davis: Steve Marcus/Las Vegas Sun via AP

Lamar Jackson

6

MVP repeat?

Patrick Mahomes couldn't do it last season. The Chiefs quarterback missed two games with a knee injury and was gimpy in other games. His 4,031 yards, 26 touchdowns and 105.3 passer rating last season looked human after he passed for 5,097 yards, 50 touchdowns and a 113.8 passer rating in winning the MVP award in 2018.

Last season belonged to Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson. He earned all 50 MVP votes, becoming only the second unanimous selection in league history. Tom Brady earned every vote in 2010.

Jackson answered all questions about whether he was an NFL quarterback. The Ravens tailored their offense to Jackson, and he passed for a league-leading 36 touchdowns and ran for another seven. Jackson's 1,206 rushing yards set a single-season record for a quarterback, and he passed for 3,127 yards and a 113.3 passer rating.

What does Jackson do for an encore? No one has repeated as NFL MVP since Peyton Manning in 2008-09. But Jackson surely would rather follow Mahomes, who won Super Bowl MVP honors last season instead of repeating as league MVP.

The Ravens had the best record in the NFL and home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs and were odds-on favorites to win the Super Bowl. They didn't make it past the divisional round, losing to the Titans at home.

7

Taysom Hill time

Taysom Hill

Taysom Hill was the best player on the field during the Saints' playoff loss to the Vikings. Sean Payton is convinced that Hill is the team's quarterback of the future.

Drew Brees remains the quarterback of the present. This may or may not be Brees' final season, but the Saints want Hill on the field more than he was last season and playing quarterback more than he did last season.

Hill played 241 offensive snaps last season, most of them at a spot other than quarterback. He had 46 touches for 390 yards and seven touchdowns while completing 3-of-6 passes for 55 yards during the regular season. He will continue in his Swiss army knife role.

Backup Teddy Bridgewater departed for Carolina, and the Saints signed veteran Jameis Winston. But Hill remains the top option to become the heir apparent, with Winston having signed a one-year deal. Winston will get a chance to sit back and learn behind Brees after five years as the starter in Tampa. Brees, 41, has at least one more season to add to his record-setting numbers while trying to win a second championship.

8

Return *of* BIG BEN

Hall of Famer Terry Bradshaw calls Ben Roethlisberger the greatest quarterback in Steelers history. But Bradshaw has two more Super Bowl rings than Roethlisberger has. Roethlisberger is running out of time to catch up. He turned 38 during the offseason. He played only two games last season before needing surgery on his throwing elbow.

The Steelers repeatedly have expressed optimism that Roethlisberger is as good as new, and Roethlisberger said this offseason he was throwing without pain for the first time in years.

He has not made the Pro Bowl since 2017 and has not won a playoff game since 2016. The Steelers last won the Super Bowl in 2010. Does Roethlisberger have enough left to take the Steelers back to the promised land?

The Steelers went 8–8 last season despite losing Roethlisberger, James Conner, JuJu Smith-Schuster and Stephon Tuitt for a combined 34 games. They added fullback Derek Watt, offensive lineman Stefen Wisniewski, defensive lineman Chris Wormley and tight end Eric Ebron in free agency.

If Roethlisberger stays healthy, the Steelers should see a return to the postseason. It's just a question of how far his repaired right arm can carry them once they get there.

Jackson: Perry Knotts via AP; Hill: Peter Brouillet; Allen: Matt Hernandez

9 LIONS ROAR?

Bob Quinn has served as the Lions' GM the past four seasons. The Lions are 27–36–1 with one playoff appearance, a loss to the Seahawks in the wild-card round in 2016, during Quinn's tenure. Detroit has not won a playoff game since 1991.

Both Quinn and head coach Matt Patricia, who is 9–22–1 in his two seasons and has drawn criticism from former players about his coaching style, are under pressure to change that. In announcing that the duo would return for 2020, Lions owner Martha Firestone Ford added, "We expect to be a playoff contender, and those are our expectations, which we've expressed to both Bob and to Matt."

To meet those expectations, the Lions need quarterback Matthew Stafford to remain healthy. Stafford threw 19 touchdowns and five interceptions and posted a 106.0 passer rating in eight games before fracturing his back.

After adding offensive tackle Halapoulivaati Vaitai, linebacker Jamie Collins Sr., cornerback Desmond Trufant, defensive tackle Danny Shelton and safety Duron Harmon, among others, this offseason, the Lions have the talent to do what hasn't been done in Detroit in decades.

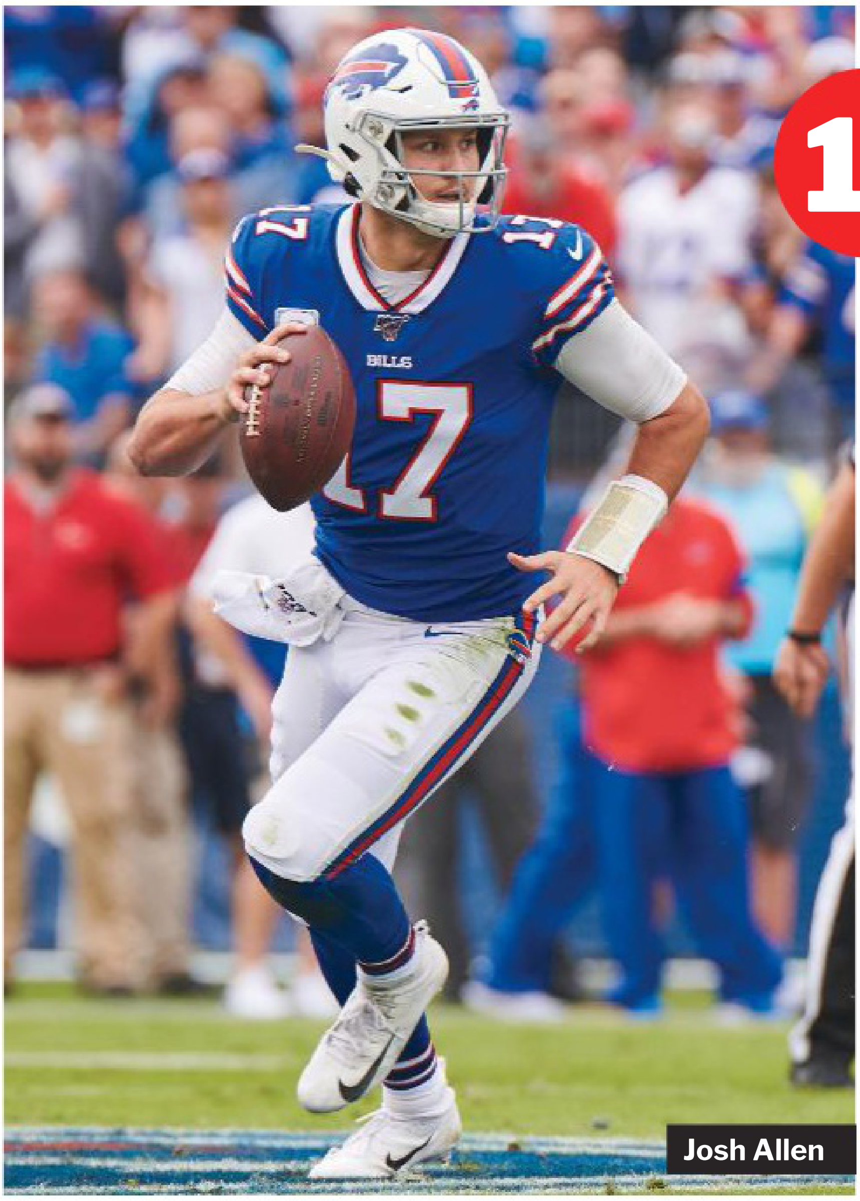
10 Texans throw caution to the wind

It's only a footnote in the Chiefs' 2019 Super Bowl run now, but the Texans dominated Kansas City in the first 19 minutes of the divisional round. Texans head coach Bill O'Brien made two questionable decisions, opting for a field goal on fourth-and-one at the Kansas City 13 to put the Texans up 24–0 and then attempting a fake punt on fourth-and-four at his own 31 up 24–7 in the second quarter. The Chiefs won 51–31.

O'Brien, who doubles as the team's general manager, made another head-scratching decision in the offseason. By almost everyone's analysis, the Texans did not get enough in the trade of DeAndre Hopkins to the Cardinals — running back David Johnson (and his massive contract), a 2020 second-round choice and a 2021 fourth-round choice in return for arguably the best receiver in football and a 2020 fourth-round choice. O'Brien said the trade was "in the best interest of our team" and advised everyone to "let it all play out" over the course of a year, two years and five years. O'Brien, though, might not get that long if he can't get the Texans over the hump soon.

The Texans have won the AFC South in four of O'Brien's six seasons as head coach. Yet, the Texans are only 2–4 in the postseason under O'Brien and have not advanced beyond the divisional round.

The Texans have never in their history played in the AFC Championship Game. Fans' confidence in O'Brien has waned on the field as head coach and off the field as general manager. But ownership remains in his corner, at least for now.



Josh Allen

11 Circling the wagons in Buffalo

The Bills haven't generated this type of excitement in Buffalo since the 1990s when they won four consecutive AFC titles. Everyone in Western New York believes. Two playoff appearances the past three seasons under Sean McDermott, a rising quarterback and the departure of Tom Brady from the AFC East have the Bills eyeing the division title.

"It's a great situation," Bills receiver Isaiah McKenzie said this offseason in a widely shared video. "I cheered [Brady's departure] because he's a great player. You can't take that away from him. Him leaving, our team is stacked. The last two years we've been giving him a run for his money, but now that he's gone, it's going to be the Bills' time to take over."

In the past 19 seasons, the Patriots have won the AFC East 17 times. They finished second twice, missing the postseason despite winning records in 2002 and 2008.

Brady tore an anterior cruciate ligament in the season opener in 2008 and missed the final 15 games. So, in the 18 seasons Brady played most of the games for the Patriots, they won the division 17 times.

The Bills, Dolphins and Jets didn't stand a chance. With Brady now in the NFC, though, the AFC East is up for grabs for the first time in a long time. The Bills and quarterback Josh Allen plan on taking advantage.

12

NICK FOLES TAKEOVER

The Bears' fateful decision in 2017 has been well documented. The team traded up to take a quarterback and selected the wrong one. Chicago drafted Mitchell Trubisky with the No. 2 overall choice before Patrick Mahomes went 10th overall to the Chiefs and Deshaun Watson 12th overall to the Texans.

Trubisky's future was cloudy before the Bears traded for Nick Foles. Now Trubisky will have someone looking over his shoulder who is capable of taking his job. In addition, the Bears declined to pick up his fifth-year option.

Nick Foles

This likely marks Trubisky's last chance to prove he's the Bears' QB of the present and the future. The situation is reminiscent of Tennessee's last year. The Titans traded for Ryan Tannehill in the offseason, insisting Marcus Mariota was the starter. The Titans benched Mariota after only six games, and Tannehill took the Titans to the AFC title game. The Titans rewarded Tannehill with a generous contract and Mariota is now in Las Vegas.

Foles, 31, went 4–1 in two postseasons with the Eagles, winning Super Bowl LII MVP honors, although he has never started more than 11 games in a season.

It's likely playoffs or bust for Trubisky in Chicago this season.

13

BUNGLES NO MORE

The Bengals don't have much to show for their history. In 52 seasons, the Bengals have a .447 winning percentage, have made the postseason 14 times, won five playoff games, never won a Super Bowl, drafted only one future Hall of Famer, hired 10 head coaches and started 30 quarterbacks.

Second-year head coach Zac Taylor and rookie quarterback Joe Burrow hope to change the Bengals' future.

Three months before the Bengals selected the LSU quarterback with the No. 1 overall choice, Burrow made clear his desire to join a team "committed to winning Super Bowls." The Bengals haven't won a playoff game since Jan. 6, 1991, and their commitment to winning has been a question for many years.

The Bengals, though, answered by using the franchise tag on receiver A.J. Green while spending up a storm in free agency. Cincinnati never had spent more than $26 million on a single free agent since 2015, according to ESPN Stats & Research. This offseason, the Bengals spent $95 million on deals for defensive tackle D.J. Reader and cornerback Trae Waynes alone.

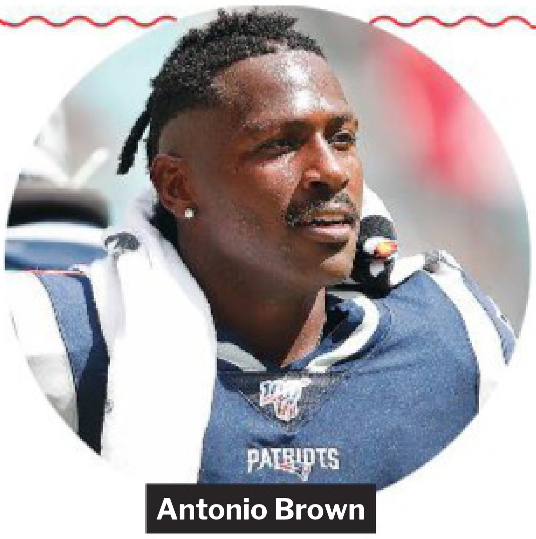
The Bengals have proved they are committed to winning. Now, can they win?

14

Antonio Brown's RETURN

For six seasons, Antonio Brown was one of the top receivers in the NFL. He averaged 114 receptions for 1,524 yards and 11 touchdowns from 2013-18. Brown made the Pro Bowl all six seasons and was All-Pro in four of those.

Then came his meltdown in Pittsburgh, which traded him to Oakland a year ago. Brown never played a down for the Raiders, who sent him to New England after another meltdown. Brown played one game for the Patriots.



Antonio Brown

He has remained out of work since New England cut him Sept. 20, and he faced multiple investigations under the Personal Conduct Policy.

Does Brown play again? If the NFL's investigation leads to a resolution that allows him to return, Brown likely will be back. He is too talented for some team not to take a chance on him.

Foles: Matt Hernandez; Brown: W.E. Smith; Burrow: Aaron Doster via AP

Doug Pederson and Carson Wentz

15 NFC East repeat?

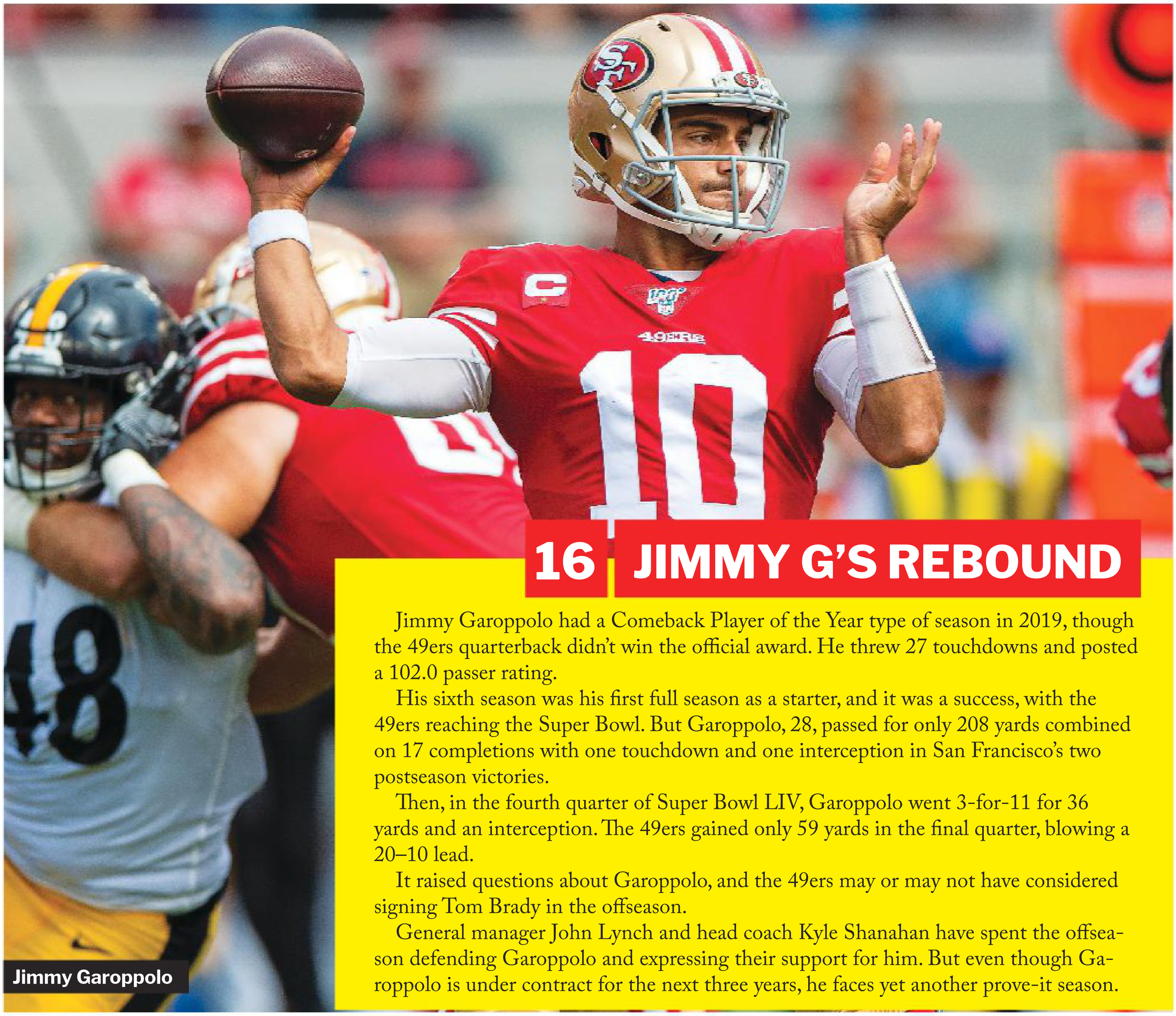
No team has repeated as NFC East champion since 2004 when the Eagles won their fourth in a row. In the past 15 years, the Giants have won the division three times, the Eagles five times, the Redskins two times and the Cowboys five times.

The Eagles won the NFC East last season after the Cowboys lost eight of their final 13 games. Based on recent history, the Eagles wouldn't rank as the favorite in the division for 2020. Except …

Philadelphia is the only team in the division that didn't change head coaches in the offseason. The Cowboys fired Jason Garrett and hired Mike McCarthy. The Redskins replaced Jay Gruden with Ron Rivera. The Giants moved on from Pat Shurmur with the hiring of Joe Judge.

The Redskins and Giants have second-year quarterbacks with Dwayne Haskins Jr. and Daniel Jones, respectively, and the 2019 first-round choices likely need more grooming.

With no on-field work this offseason because of COVID-19, teams with the same head coach, same quarterback and same coordinators should have a leg up heading into the season. The Cowboys kept the same offensive coordinator and same offensive playbook. But the Eagles have the most stability, so the NFC East should be on repeat alert.



Jimmy Garoppolo

16 JIMMY G'S REBOUND

Jimmy Garoppolo had a Comeback Player of the Year type of season in 2019, though the 49ers quarterback didn't win the official award. He threw 27 touchdowns and posted a 102.0 passer rating.

His sixth season was his first full season as a starter, and it was a success, with the 49ers reaching the Super Bowl. But Garoppolo, 28, passed for only 208 yards combined on 17 completions with one touchdown and one interception in San Francisco's two postseason victories.

Then, in the fourth quarter of Super Bowl LIV, Garoppolo went 3-for-11 for 36 yards and an interception. The 49ers gained only 59 yards in the final quarter, blowing a 20–10 lead.

It raised questions about Garoppolo, and the 49ers may or may not have considered signing Tom Brady in the offseason.

General manager John Lynch and head coach Kyle Shanahan have spent the offseason defending Garoppolo and expressing their support for him. But even though Garoppolo is under contract for the next three years, he faces yet another prove-it season.

Eagles: Harrison McClary; Garoppolo: Peter Brouillet

NFL PLAYER RANKINGS

Patrick Mahomes

Deciding the best players in the NFL at every position is a multi-faceted process by definition. "Best" is a subjective concept in the first place, and in the second place, one must combine multiple statistical viewpoints with comprehensive tape study to ascertain the most valuable and efficient players across the NFL. Today, the NFL alternates between older-school pocket quarterbacks and athletic wonders with explosive potential on scrambles and designed runs who can also throw the ball with great accuracy to all parts of the field. Linebackers are asked to play like safeties in the modern league. Slot defenders and receivers are basically starters now; most of them were afterthoughts at best only a decade ago.

So, in our lists of best NFL players for the 2020 season, it's just as important how a player does what he does as it is how often he does it, or what his raw statistics are.

For example, Aaron Donald's "positionless" excellence (he played 167 snaps last season at left defensive end and 171 snaps at right defensive end, per Pro Football Focus), and the same type of multi-gap production expected of more and more defensive linemen, are the primary reasons we merged the nose tackle and defensive tackle positions into one "DI" (defensive interior) position in this year's rankings. It's important to separate the edge-rushers who make their money outside most of the time, which is why there's an "Edge" position as well.

Versatility matters, as do efficiency and consistency. To that end, we have not included the 2020 draft class in our player rankings. This may seem unfair, as Joe Burrow is probably one of the top 20 quarterbacks in the league from a pure talent perspective before he takes his first NFL snap, but we don't yet know how he'll be tasked to do many things at the NFL level against NFL defenses. Chase Young might put up 15 sacks in his rookie season, or he may fall victim to the rookie adjustment period seen by the majority of edge rushers. Since we don't know, we've chosen to limit our rankings to players who have a history in the league. It's also why there are backup quarterbacks in the top 30 — again, Burrow has more talent on tape than Andy Dalton, the guy he's replacing in Cincinnati, but we haven't seen how that will play out. With all that as preface, here are the top 50 players in the NFL for 2020, and the top players at every position.

Overall top 50

1. Patrick Mahomes, QB, Kansas City
2. Aaron Donald, DI, L.A. Rams
3. Russell Wilson, QB, Seattle
4. Stephon Gilmore, CB, New England
5. Michael Thomas, WR, New Orleans
6. Lamar Jackson, QB, Baltimore
7. Quenton Nelson, OG, Indianapolis
8. Richard Sherman, CB, San Francisco
9. Christian McCaffrey, RB, Carolina
10. Drew Brees, QB, New Orleans
11. Julio Jones, WR, Atlanta
12. Ronnie Stanley, OT, Baltimore
13. Anthony Harris, DB, Minnesota
14. Za'Darius Smith, EDGE, Green Bay
15. Nick Bosa, EDGE, San Francisco
16. Dak Prescott, QB, Dallas
17. Nick Chubb, RB, Cleveland
18. Derrick Henry, RB, Tennessee
19. Cameron Heyward, DI, Pittsburgh
20. George Kittle, TE, San Francisco
21. Deshaun Watson, QB, Houston
22. Ezekiel Elliott, RB, Dallas
23. DeAndre Hopkins, WR, Arizona
24. Justin Simmons, S, Denver
25. Mitchell Schwartz, OT, Kansas City
26. Aaron Rodgers, QB, Green Bay
27. Danielle Hunter, EDGE, Minnesota
28. Tom Brady, QB, Tampa Bay
29. Mike Evans, WR, Tampa Bay
30. Zack Martin, OG, Dallas
31. Travis Kelce, TE, Kansas City
32. Kenny Clark, DI, Green Bay
33. DeForest Buckner, DI, Indianapolis
34. Devin McCourty, S, New England
35. Stefon Diggs, WR, Buffalo
36. Eric Kendricks, LB, Minnesota
37. Tyrann Mathieu, S, Kansas City
38. Shaquil Barrett, EDGE, Tampa Bay
39. Taylor Lewan, OT, Tennessee
40. Tre'Davious White, CB, Buffalo
41. Earl Thomas III, S, Baltimore
42. Chris Jones, DI, Kansas City
43. Darius Leonard, LB, Indianapolis
44. Bobby Wagner, LB, Seattle
45. Ryan Tannehill, QB, Tennessee
46. Rodney Hudson, C, Las Vegas
47. Fletcher Cox, DI, Philadelphia
48. Chandler Jones, EDGE, Arizona
49. Brandon Brooks, OG, Philadelphia
50. Lane Johnson, OT, Philadelphia

Left: Matt Hernandez; Right: Tim Umphrey

TOP 30 QUARTERBACKS

QB

Patrick Mahomes

1. PATRICK MAHOMES, KANSAS CITY CHIEFS The 2018 NFL MVP and reigning Super Bowl MVP dropped a bit in efficiency last season due to injury, but he still threw 26 touchdowns to just five interceptions during the regular season and 10 TDs to two picks in the postseason when he was fully healthy. With most of Kansas City's Super Bowl starters returning to the team, expect Mahomes' 2020 to more closely mirror his 50-touchdown 2018.

2. RUSSELL WILSON, SEATTLE SEAHAWKS
Since his rookie season of 2012, only Drew Brees, Tom Brady, Philip Rivers and Aaron Rodgers have thrown more regular-season TD passes than Wilson's 227. No QB who's played through that entire era has a higher touchdown rate than Wilson's 6.0 percent, but he remains mysteriously underutilized — he ranks 11th in the era in attempts with 3,777. Had he been in a pass-heavy offense, we'd have to rewrite recent QB history.

3. LAMAR JACKSON, BALTIMORE RAVENS
Jackson's limitations as a passer came up in Baltimore's divisional playoff loss to the Titans, but his MVP season, in which he set the single-season rushing record for a quarterback, was no fluke. Jackson came of age last season in Greg Roman's diverse offense, and given another offseason of development, he should continue to refine his game to great effect.

4. DREW BREES, NEW ORLEANS SAINTS
Last season, Brees led the league in combined regular-season and postseason passer rating at 114.3, completed 74.7 percent of his passes and threw 28 TDs to five interceptions despite a receiver group that consisted of Michael Thomas and very little else. The Saints gave him Emmanuel Sanders in free agency, which can only help one of the greatest of all time.

5. DAK PRESCOTT, DALLAS COWBOYS At press time, the Cowboys had not found a way to present Prescott with a long-term contract to his liking. Right now, the team is on the hook for over $31 million in cap space for Prescott with the franchise tag, and he should have a more interesting offense if new head coach Mike McCarthy can shed some of the predictability that helped end his tenure in Green Bay. Re-signing Amari Cooper helps.

6. DESHAUN WATSON, HOUSTON TEXANS
Watson goes into the season with a receiver group of Brandin Cooks, Will Fuller V and Kenny Stills at the top. If Cooks and Fuller can transcend their recent injury issues, that'll take some of the sting out of the awful DeAndre Hopkins trade. If not, Watson may wonder how he's supposed to elevate what's around him. Losing 168 targets and 119 catches (the second most in the NFL last season in both categories behind Michael Thomas' 188 and 156) is a problem no matter how you slice it.

7. AARON RODGERS, GREEN BAY PACKERS
His 10–1 touchdown-to interception ratio in October and 8–2 ratio in December showed how well Rodgers could perform when he had a positively schemed passing game. The selection of Rodgers' heir apparent Jordan Love in the first round (26th overall) adds a new level of intrigue. It's not that head coach Matt LaFleur and GM Brian Gutekunst are shoving Rodgers out the door, but there appears to be a door for the first time.

8. TOM BRADY, TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS
Brady told Al Michaels halfway through last season, "I'm the most unhappy 8–0 quarterback in football." That had everything to do with Brady's lack of weapons, which has been corrected with his move to Tampa. With Mike Evans and Chris Godwin (our fourth- and sixth-ranked receivers) as his primary targets, Brady looks to have a career rebirth at 43.

9. RYAN TANNEHILL, TENNESSEE TITANS
Tannehill landed in Tennessee, replaced Marcus Mariota halfway through the 2019 season and finished the campaign with a trip to the AFC Championship game, the highest passer rating among quarterbacks who took at least 50 percent of the team's snaps (117.5) and a new four-year, $118 million contract. He should continue to thrive in Arthur Smith's heavy play-action passing game.

10. CARSON WENTZ, PHILADELPHIA EAGLES
2019 marked the first time Wentz was able to finish a regular season since his rookie year of 2016. Wentz completed 63.7 percent of his passes (including the postseason) and threw 27 TDs to seven interceptions despite a receiver group that was almost comically impacted by injuries. Of course, there's a reason the Eagles selected Jalen Hurts in the second round.

11. **KYLER MURRAY**
Arizona Cardinals
12. **BEN ROETHLISBERGER**
PIttsburgh Steelers
13. **MATTHEW STAFFORD**
Detroit Lions
14. **KIRK COUSINS**
Minnesota Vikings
15. **PHILIP RIVERS**
Indianapolis Colts
16. **MATT RYAN**
Atlanta Falcons
17. **DEREK CARR**
Las Vegas Raiders
18. **JIMMY GAROPPOLO**
San Francisco 49ers
19. **GARDNER MINSHEW II**
Jacksonville Jaguars
20. **JAMEIS WINSTON**
New Orleans Saints
21. **TEDDY BRIDGEWATER**
Carolina Panthers
22. **JARED GOFF**
Los Angeles Rams
23. **DANIEL JONES**
New York Giants
24. **SAM DARNOLD**
New York Jets
25. **RYAN FITZPATRICK**
Miami Dolphins
26. **BAKER MAYFIELD**
Cleveland Browns
27. **CAM NEWTON**
Free Agent
28. **JACOBY BRISSETT**
Indianapolis Colts
29. **JOSH ALLEN**
Buffalo Bills
30. **DWAYNE HASKINS JR.**
Washington Redskins

RB

TOP 30 RUNNING BACKS

Christian McCaffrey

1. CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY, CAROLINA PANTHERS With a mish-mash of quarterbacks, McCaffrey was still able to catch 116 passes on 142 targets for 1,005 yards and four touchdowns. Add in his 1,387 yards and 15 rushing TDs on 287 carries, and McCaffrey became the third back in NFL history after Roger Craig and Marshall Faulk to top 1,000 yards in both rushing and receiving in the same season. He also finished third in NFL history behind Chris Johnson in 2009 and Faulk in 1999 with 2,392 yards from scrimmage. He has become the very model of the modern running back.

2. NICK CHUBB, CLEVELAND BROWNS Chubb's excellence gets lost in the shuffle of Cleveland's mess, but when you combine speed, quickness, power and explosive ability, he's as good as anyone right now. Chubb led the league last season with 20 carries of 15 yards or more for 574 total yards, and only Josh Jacobs of the Raiders had more missed rushing tackles created than Chubb's 66.

3. DERRICK HENRY, TENNESSEE TITANS Not only did Henry lead the NFL in yards after contact in the regular season with 1,268, but he also led the NFL in postseason yards after contact with 337. One wonders how long any back can last deploying Henry's extremely physical style, but as long as he's able to bash into defenses, he'll be the epicenter of the Titans offense. Adding enormous right tackle Isaiah Wilson, whom the Titans drafted with the 29th overall pick, should make defenses even more hesitant about taking Henry on in the box.

4. EZEKIEL ELLIOTT, DALLAS COWBOYS One season after he led the league in carries and rushing yards, Elliott was even more productive in some ways in 2019, with 12 rushing touchdowns to six the year before, 78 first downs (only Derrick Henry had more) and 972 yards after contact (fourth most in the league). Where he didn't quite measure up was in explosive plays — he had 28 carries of 15 yards or more in 2018, and only 12 in 2019.

5. AARON JONES, GREEN BAY PACKERS Running backs played a far more important part in Matt LaFleur's offense than they did under Mike McCarthy in Green Bay's offense, and Jones was the primary beneficiary. His 1,558 yards from scrimmage ranked eighth in the league, and he tied with Christian McCaffrey for the NFL's most total touchdowns with 19.

6. SAQUON BARKLEY, NEW YORK GIANTS Injuries limited Barkley's production in 2019 — after leading the league with 2,028 yards from scrimmage in 2018, he saw that total drop to 1,441 as he tried to work through ankle issues. He did gain 393 yards on 63 carries (6.2 yards per carry) with four rushing touchdowns in the Giants' last three games of the season, which augurs well for his 2020 campaign.

7. MARK INGRAM II, BALTIMORE RAVENS It certainly helped Ingram in his first year with the Ravens that he had Lamar Jackson for a quarterback, but it was Ingram who worked his smooth and powerful style for 1,265 yards from scrimmage and a career-high 15 touchdowns in 2019. He should be a goal-line and fantasy star for the next few seasons.

8. AUSTIN EKELER, LOS ANGELES CHARGERS The Chargers signed Ekeler to a four-year, $24.5 million contract extension in March after he proved to be the ideal combination of rushing and receiving in Anthony Lynn's offense. Only Christian McCaffrey (997) had more yards after catch than Ekeler's 950, and Ekeler gained a full yard more per catch (10.8 to 9.8) than McCaffrey did. Ekeler should take a more expanded role in the run game with Melvin Gordon III gone.

9. JOSH JACOBS, LAS VEGAS RAIDERS No Raiders rookie has ever amassed more yards from scrimmage than Jacobs with 1,316 last season. Factor in his 25 carries of 10 yards or more on just 242 carries and his 3.48 yards after contact (fourth-highest average in the NFL among backs with at least 50 percent of their team's offensive snaps), and it's clear that Jacobs proved his worth absolutely and immediately.

10. LEONARD FOURNETTE, JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS Lost in the mess that was Jacksonville's offense was a banner year for Fournette, who set career highs in rushing (1,152) and receiving (552) yards even as he struggled to find the end zone with just three total touchdowns. Look under the hood and you'll see a back who averaged 3.34 yards after contact per attempt (fifth best in the NFL) and broke a combined 66 tackles as a runner and receiver.

11. **CHRIS CARSON**
Seattle Seahawks
12. **JOE MIXON**
Cincinnati Bengals
13. **RAHEEM MOSTERT**
San Francisco 49ers
14. **DALVIN COOK**
Minnesota Vikings
15. **JAMAAL WILLIAMS**
Green Bay Packers
16. **ALVIN KAMARA**
New Orleans Saints
17. **ADRIAN PETERSON**
Washington Redskins
18. **MARLON MACK**
Indianapolis Colts
19. **CARLOS HYDE**
Seattle Seahawks
20. **SONY MICHEL**
New England Patriots
21. **KENYAN DRAKE**
Arizona Cardinals
22. **TODD GURLEY II**
Atlanta Falcons
23. **LE'VEON BELL**
New York Jets
24. **MATT BREIDA**
Miami Dolphins
25. **DEVIN SINGLETARY**
Buffalo Bills
26. **MELVIN GORDON III**
Denver Broncos
27. **PHILLIP LINDSAY**
Denver Broncos
28. **FRANK GORE**
New York Jets
29. **DAVID MONTGOMERY**
Chicago Bears
30. **TONY POLLARD**
Dallas Cowboys

McCaffrey: Peter Brouillet; Thomas: Cooper Neill via AP

TOP 30 WIDE RECEIVERS

WR

1. MICHAEL THOMAS, NEW ORLEANS SAINTS Nobody was a better or more important volume receiver, which was good for New Orleans' otherwise-depleted receiver corps. He led the league with 185 targets, 149 receptions and 1,725 yards. Thomas also made those receptions count — he led all receivers in yards after catch (588) and first downs (91), and only Seattle's Tyler Lockett had a higher passer rating when targeted among receivers who took at least 50 percent of their offensive snaps than Thomas' 123.3.

2. JULIO JONES, ATLANTA FALCONS Since Jones' rookie season of 2011, only Antonio Brown has more catches than Jones' 797; nobody has more receiving yards than Jones' 12,125; and though seven receivers have more touchdown receptions than his 57, that has more to do with the predilection of Atlanta offensive coordinators to use Jones as a decoy in the red zone. Jones is not anywhere near done yet as evidenced by his 99 catches for 1,394 yards and six touchdowns.

3. DEANDRE HOPKINS, ARIZONA CARDINALS It still seems like a fever dream that the Texans traded Hopkins to the Cardinals for running back David Johnson and a few picks back and forth, but there's one thing for sure — giving Kyler Murray one of best contested-catch receivers in the league will do wonders for Murray's development. More than an intermediate bruiser, Hopkins caught seven passes on 20 targets of 20 or more air yards for 237 yards and three TDs last season.

4. MIKE EVANS, TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS. Speaking of contested-catch receivers, there aren't any better than Evans. Last season, even with Jameis Winston testing Evans' catch radius and patience, Evans still grabbed 67 catches for 1,157 yards, eight touchdowns, and a 17.3 yards per reception average. Now, take Winston out and replace him with Tom Brady, and you've got quite a passing game going on.

5. STEFON DIGGS, BUFFALO BILLS With John Brown, Cole Beasley and Diggs, whom the Bills got in a blockbuster trade in March, Buffalo now has one of the league's best receiver groups. With his top-level speed, elusiveness and contested-catch ability, Diggs had the most catches of 20 or more air yards last season with 17, and no other receiver had more yards (676) or TDs (seven) on such passes.

6. CHRIS GODWIN, TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS Even with Jameis Winston throwing interceptions left and right last season, Godwin proved to be one of the NFL's most productive receivers as a complement to Mike Evans. He grabbed 86 passes for 1,333 yards and nine touchdowns in Bruce Arians' high-volume passing game, and he caught 10 passes of 20 or more air yards for 298 yards and two touchdowns. With Tom Brady on board, expect an uptick in efficiency, if not deep productivity.

Michael Thomas

7. ALLEN ROBINSON II, CHICAGO BEARS Through his NFL career, Robinson's primary quarterbacks have been Blake Bortles in Jacksonville and Mitchell Trubisky in Chicago. That he's managed two 1,000-yard seasons since 2015 — including a 2019 season in which he caught 98 passes on 154 targets for 1,147 yards and seven touchdowns — is a testament to his talent and route awareness.

8. AMARI COOPER, DALLAS COWBOYS Cooper has been a highly productive alpha receiver with an ever-expanding route palette. After a 2019 season in which he caught 79 passes on 119 targets for 1,189 yards and eight TDs, Dallas rewarded him with a new five-year, $100 million contract. It will be interesting to see how Cooper and Dak Prescott align in Mike McCarthy's route concepts, which have generally been more rudimentary than most.

9. TYREEK HILL, KANSAS CITY CHIEFS Hill's speed doesn't just allow Patrick Mahomes to pepper opposing defenses with deep passes. Hill also acts as perhaps the ultimate decoy, forcing safeties to take him seriously on every passing play. Not that Hill isn't productive, especially on the deep stuff — last season, he caught 13 passes of 20 air yards or more for 473 yards and five touchdowns.

10. TYLER LOCKETT, SEATTLE SEAHAWKS In 2018, Russell Wilson had a perfect passer rating of 158.3 when throwing to Lockett — that's the only time a receiver with at least 50 percent of his team's offensive snaps has earned that distinction since at least 2006. It wasn't a fluke, either — in 2019, when Wilson threw to Lockett, his passer rating was 127.0, again the NFL's best.

11. **KENNY GOLLADAY**
Detroit Lions
12. **DEVANTE PARKER**
Miami Dolphins
13. **DAVANTE ADAMS**
Green Bay Packers
14. **ADAM THIELEN**
Minnesota Vikings
15. **TERRY MCLAURIN**
Washington Redskins
16. **KEENAN ALLEN**
Los Angeles Chargers
17. **JULIAN EDELMAN**
New England Patriots
18. **COOPER KUPP**
Los Angeles Rams
19. **JOHN BROWN**
Buffalo Bills
20. **ODELL BECKHAM JR.**
Cleveland Browns
21. **A.J. BROWN**
Tennessee Titans
22. **MICHAEL GALLUP**
Dallas Cowboys
23. **JARVIS LANDRY**
Cleveland Browns
24. **T.Y. HILTON**
Indianapolis Colts
25. **DK METCALF**
Seattle Seahawks
26. **MIKE WILLIAMS**
Los Angeles Chargers
27. **TYLER BOYD**
Cincinnati Bengals
28. **DJ CHARK JR.**
Jacksonville Jaguars
29. **EMMANUEL SANDERS**
New Orleans Saints
30. **DEEBO SAMUEL**
San Francisco 49ers

TOP 20 TIGHT ENDS/FULLBACKS

TE/FB

George Kittle

1. GEORGE KITTLE, SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS It certainly helps that Kittle has Kyle Shanahan designing his route concepts for him, but Kittle has become the most unstoppable weapon at his position in short order. Kittle has the strength, speed, toughness and catch radius to be the best tight end in the game, but when you factor in his blocking ability, that moves him into the discussion as one of the best offensive players overall.

2. TRAVIS KELCE, KANSAS CITY CHIEFS Nobody expected Kelce to become what he's become, or he wouldn't have lasted until the third round of the 2013 draft. But he's put up four straight 1,000-yard seasons since 2016, making all four possible Pro Bowls and adding two All-Pro nods in that time. He's just about impossible to deal with as a receiver in Andy Reid's multiple passing game — especially since Patrick Mahomes defined it in a deep-ball sense.

3. MARK ANDREWS, BALTIMORE RAVENS Andrews wasn't thought of as an explosive weapon in Baltimore's offense last season, but the stats tell an interesting story — he tied with Kansas City's Travis Kelce for the most catches of 20 or more air yards with eight last season, and he tied with New Orleans' Jared Cook for the most touchdowns (four) on such passes. Given the extent to which Baltimore loves to run two- and three-tight end sets, you can expect those trends to continue.

4. DARREN WALLER, LAS VEGAS RAIDERS Selected by the Ravens in the sixth round of the 2015 draft, Waller overcame injury and substance-abuse issues to become Jon Gruden's top receiver in the 2019 season, with 90 receptions on 107 targets for 1,145 yards and three touchdowns. Waller is more a formation receiver than a true blocker in the traditional tight end sense, but he's also a weapon everywhere on the field.

5. JARED COOK, NEW ORLEANS SAINTS Cook has been a sneaky-productive player through his tenures with five different teams, and he added a ton to New Orleans' passing game in his first season under Sean Payton on a two-year, $15 million contract. The veteran gave Drew Brees and Teddy Bridgewater a reliable target with 43 catches on 65 targets for 705 yards and a career-high nine touchdowns.

6. ZACH ERTZ, PHILADELPHIA EAGLES The Eagles had to rely on Ertz more and more as their receiver group became almost totally depleted by injury through the season, and he did his best with 51 catches for 492 yards and five touchdowns in November and December alone. Ertz isn't the ultimate downfield weapon, but he's a reliable receiver, especially in short-yardage and red zone situations.

7. HUNTER HENRY, LOS ANGELES CHARGERS The only thing keeping Henry from a higher place on this list is his unfortunate inability to stay healthy. The second-round pick in 2016 out of Arkansas has never played a full season and missed the entire 2018 campaign, but when he's on the field, the 6'5", 250-pound Henry presents a formidable slot weapon on everything from quick slants to deep posts. Henry caught 55 passes on 76 targets for 652 yards and five touchdowns. Doing that in 12 games makes one wonder what he could do in a full season. The Chargers obviously think there's more and better to come because they placed the franchise tag on him for the 2020 season.

8. AUSTIN HOOPER, CLEVELAND BROWNS Adding Hooper to David Njoku in Cleveland's tight end room makes a ton of sense with new head coach and offensive play-designer Kevin Stefanski taking over. As Minnesota's offensive coordinator in 2019, Stefanski called as many two-tight sets as anyone in the NFL. Hooper isn't a dominant tight end — he needs a system to make it work — but the system he's in now should make that happen.

9. KYLE RUDOLPH, MINNESOTA VIKINGS Rudolph was never one of the NFL's most explosive tight ends — his style has always run more to the traditional as a quality route-runner, a reliable hands-catcher and an above-average blocker. Though he caught just 39 passes on 48 targets for 367 yards, he also brought in six touchdown catches with his toughness and catch radius. Nothing else about Rudolph screams "highlight reel," but he's still an important player in the right scheme.

10. ROB GRONKOWSKI, TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS We're giving Gronk a relative pass here in that he hasn't played since Super Bowl LIII, he hasn't played a full 16-game season since 2011, he hasn't enjoyed a 1,000-yard season since 2017 and he'll be working in a new offense without the benefit of minicamps and training camps on a standard schedule. But he's also the guy the Patriots needed to win that final Super Bowl on the crucial game-winning drive, and once he gets his bearings in Bruce Arians' offense, he should be able to bring at least some of the old Gronk to the field.

11. **HAYDEN HURST**
Atlanta Falcons
12. **TYLER HIGBEE**
Los Angeles Rams
13. **ERIC EBRON**
Pittsburgh Steelers
14. **JONNU SMITH**
Tennessee Titans
15. **DAVID NJOKU**
Cleveland Browns
16. **EVAN ENGRAM**
New York Giants
17. **GREG OLSEN**
Seattle Seahawks
18. **TYLER EIFERT**
Cincinnati Bengals
19. **KYLE JUSZCZYK**
San Francisco 49ers
20. **MIKE GESICKI**
Miami Dolphins

Kittle: Peter Brouillet; Stanley: Harrison McClary

OT

TOP 20 OFFENSIVE TACKLES

Ronnie Stanley

1. RONNIE STANLEY, LT, BALTIMORE RAVENS Not only did Stanley block for the league's most diverse and effective rushing attack, but he also gave Lamar Jackson very little to worry about from pass rushers from the left side of the pocket — or out of the pocket, of course. Including the postseason, Stanley allowed just one sack, one quarterback hit and eight quarterback hurries on 543 pass-blocking snaps. Not bad when you have to re-set all the time because your QB is running all over the place.

2. MITCHELL SCHWARTZ, RT, KANSAS CITY CHIEFS Schwartz was great in the 2019 regular season, but he kicked it into another gear during the Chiefs' Super Bowl run. He allowed no sacks, no QB hits and just one QB hurry in three playoff games, including Super Bowl LIV against San Francisco's dominant defensive front. When you hear people say that right tackles aren't as valuable as left tackles, Schwartz is the primary argument in the other direction.

3. TAYLOR LEWAN, LT, TENNESSEE TITANS Lewan didn't miss a beat as the Titans moved from Marcus Mariota's tentativeness to Ryan Tannehill's ability to rip the ball downfield in Arthur Smith's play action-heavy offense, allowing just two sacks and 12 total pressures in 487 pass-blocking snaps in the regular season and postseason. And though Derrick Henry acts as his own offensive line at times, Lewan was always eager to help out when it was time to seal one side of a rushing lane.

4. LANE JOHNSON, RT, PHILADELPHIA EAGLES The Eagles took Johnson with the fourth overall pick in the 2013 draft, and he's played just 344 snaps on the left side to 6,423 right-side snaps in his career. If you think that makes him a bad value, understand the crucial importance of the right tackle position in today's NFL. Johnson is a perennial top-10 tackle regardless of which side he's on. Last season, he allowed just one sack on 454 pass-blocking snaps, and he's a top-shelf run blocker.

5. TYRON SMITH, LT, DALLAS COWBOYS Injuries limited Smith to just 13 games last season, and he hasn't played a full season since 2015. As he'll turn 30 in December, there should be some concern about the future of Dallas' left tackle position. But when he's able to suit up, Smith is still one of the NFL's best blind-side protectors, with a nearly unparalleled combination of length, power, agility and ability to adjust to speed and power.

6. RYAN RAMCZYK, RT, NEW ORLEANS SAINTS Right tackle is a crucial position in Sean Payton's offense because of the extent to which Drew Brees rolls right to expand rushing lanes. Ramczyk has had the occasional rough spots with that responsibility, but last season, with Brees out for five games and Teddy Bridgewater taking over during that time, Ramczyk helped the transition with zero sacks and 22 pressures allowed. He's also one of the most consistent run blockers in the league.

7. TRENT BROWN, RT, LAS VEGAS RAIDERS Brown has turned himself into one of the best power tackles in the NFL, and he's done so for three different teams in the last three seasons — right tackle for the 49ers in 2017, left tackle for the Super Bowl Champion Patriots in 2018 and back to the right side for the Raiders in 2019 on a four-year, $66 million contract. Brown is a surprisingly agile behemoth at 6'8" and 380 pounds — he's given up just five total sacks in the last three seasons, and he's an obvious force in the run game.

8. TRENT WILLIAMS, LT, SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS Waylaid as he's been by injuries and conflicts with the Redskins' front office over the last few years, it might be hard to remember Williams at his peak, when he was neck-and-neck with Tyron Smith for the title of the NFL's best left tackle. The trade to the 49ers should give Williams new life, as he has all the attributes one would want in a pass protector and run blocker in Kyle Shanahan's offense. Williams is stronger at the point of attack than now-retired 49ers left tackle Joe Staley, but he doesn't give up a bit in agility.

9. TERRON ARMSTEAD, LT, NEW ORLEANS SAINTS Ever since the Saints took Armstead out of Arkansas-Pine Bluff in the third round of the 2013 draft, he's been a bastion of stability on the left side. He's never allowed more than five sacks or 25 total pressures in a season, and in 2019, he gave up a career-low one sack in a career-high 622 pass-blocking snaps. Armstead's athleticism was clear at the 2013 combine when he ran a 4.71-second 40-yard dash at 6'5" and 306 pounds; he's kept that standard and added fundamental strength.

10. ANTHONY CASTONZO, LT, INDIANAPOLIS COLTS After the 2019 season, Castonzo considered retirement at 31. Instead, he came back, and the Colts rewarded him with a two-year, $33 million contract extension. Castonzo has been one of the more underrated left tackles in the league since Indianapolis took him in the first round of the 2011 draft, and despite an uncertain quarterback situation in 2019, Castonzo allowed just three sacks in 621 pass-blocking snaps.

11. **JASON PETERS**
LT, Free Agent
12. **LAREMY TUNSIL**
LT, Houston Texans
13. **DUANE BROWN**
LT, Seattle Seahawks
14. **ANDREW WHITWORTH**
LT, Los Angeles Rams
15. **ORLANDO BROWN JR.**
RT, Baltimore Ravens
16. **BRYAN BULAGA**
RT, Los Angeles Chargers
17. **LA'EL COLLINS**
RT, Dallas Cowboys
18. **BRIAN O'NEILL**
RT, Minnesota Vikings
19. **DION DAWKINS**
LT, Buffalo Bills
20. **ALEJANDRO VILLANUEVA**
LT, Pittsburgh Steelers

TOP 20 GUARDS

Quenton Nelson

1. QUENTON NELSON, INDIANAPOLIS COLTS Some may have wondered what the Colts were doing taking a guard with the sixth overall pick in the 2018 draft, but Nelson has dispensed with any questions about his positional value in the same ways he deals with opposing defensive linemen. As great as he was in his rookie season, the NFL's best combination of mauler and technician upped his game in 2019, decreasing his sacks allowed from two to zero and his penalties from nine to three.

2. ZACK MARTIN, DALLAS COWBOYS Injuries affected most of Dallas' excellent offensive line in 2019, and Martin was no exception. Still, he earned his sixth Pro Bowl spot and fourth All-Pro nod in a season in which he allowed no sacks, 19 total pressures, was called for just two penalties and maintained his status as the interior force for the Cowboys' front five.

3. BRANDON BROOKS, PHILADELPHIA EAGLES Philadelphia's offensive roster looked more like a M*A*S*H unit at times in 2019, especially late in the season, but Brooks was one of the constants at left guard. Excelling as a mobile road-grader in Doug Pederson's zone-heavy play-action offense, Brooks allowed one sack and 19 pressures in 647 pass-blocking snaps and gave running backs a wide lane through which to rumble.

4. JOE THUNEY, NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS Thuney's pressure numbers have been assisted over the last two seasons to a point by New England's quick-by-necessity passing game, but they're still ridiculous. Since 2018, including the postseason, Thuney has allowed just one sack in 1,497 pass-blocking snaps. Thuney isn't the most physically imposing guard on this list, but he's turned himself into a coach's dream — smart, tough, and able to execute any assignment. He wasn't called for a single penalty in 2019.

Joe Thuney

5. BRANDON SCHERFF, WASHINGTON REDSKINS The only reason Scherff isn't higher on this list? Injuries that have limited him to just 19 total games in the last two seasons. When he's healthy, Scherff is as good as any guard in the league, especially when asked to pull, slide and show off his agility in Washington's balanced zone and gap run concepts.

6. RICHIE INCOGNITO, LAS VEGAS RAIDERS Incognito's off-field issues are all too well known at this point, but he managed to keep it together in his return to the NFL in 2019 with the Raiders. Incognito allowed just one sack and nine total pressures in 432 pass-blocking snaps, though his eight penalties pull him down this list a bit. A fearsome run blocker as well, Incognito earned a new two-year, $14 million contract last December.

7. JOEL BITONIO, CLEVELAND BROWNS Bitonio joined the Browns as a second-round pick out of Nevada in the 2014 draft. Since then, he's watched Cleveland's left tackle spot be bequeathed from all-time great Joe Thomas to a bunch of inferior substitutes, but it's never affected his game. In 2019, Bitonio made his second straight Pro Bowl, allowing three sacks and 17 total pressures in 652 pass-blocking snaps. He's one of the NFL's more agile and mobile guards.

8. KEVIN ZEITLER, NEW YORK GIANTS Zeitler was one of the most physically dominant guards during his five seasons with the Bengals and two more with the Browns, and he kept up that standard with the Giants in 2019 as a piece of the Odell Beckham Jr. trade. Zeitler maintained his high run-blocking standards, and though he did allow three sacks, he lowered his penalty total from seven in 2018 to two last season.

9. ALI MARPET, TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS The Buccaneers selected Marpet in the second round of the 2015 draft out of Division III Hobart because they saw a technician with a nasty streak, and it's safe to say they've never regretted it. Though he's never made a Pro Bowl, Marpet led the NFL with 751 pass-blocking snaps in the regular season and allowed just two sacks despite a quarterback in Jameis Winston who, shall we say, isn't the most situationally aware fellow. Upgrading to Tom Brady should do wonders for Marpet's ability to win at the line of scrimmage.

10. DAVID DECASTRO, PITTSBURGH STEELERS Despite Pittsburgh's disastrous quarterback situation in 2019, DeCastro played up to his usual high standard as one of the most complete guards in the NFL. He allowed just two sacks in 606 pass-blocking snaps, and he's always been one of the league's best gap and zone run blockers when healthy.

11. **SHAQ MASON**
New England Patriots
12. **ELGTON JENKINS**
Green Bay Packers
13. **TRAI TURNER**
Los Angeles Chargers
14. **CONNOR WILLIAMS**
Dallas Cowboys
15. **CODY WHITEHAIR**
Chicago Bears
16. **JOSH KLINE**
Minnesota Vikings
17. **QUINTON SPAIN**
Buffalo Bills
18. **ZACH FULTON**
Houston Texans
19. **WILL HERNANDEZ**
New York Giants
20. **DALTON RISNER**
Denver Broncos

Nelson, Hudson: Peter Brouillet; Thuney: Al Tielemans via AP

TOP 20 CENTERS

Rodney Hudson

1. RODNEY HUDSON, LAS VEGAS RAIDERS

In assessing the NFL's best centers, Hudson has been in the discussion for a while now, but 2019 was finally the year in which there was definitely nobody better at the position. Not only is he a true road-grader as a run blocker and capable of handling either zone or gap responsibilities, but he also allowed zero sacks and just three total pressures on 537 pass-blocking snaps last season. No other center came close to those low totals.

2. JASON KELCE, PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Kelce has never been the strongest center in the NFL, but there is no player at his position more consistently adept with pulls, sweeps and second-level targets. He will allow the occasional pressure up the middle to bigger tackles, but in both pass protection and in the run game, few centers give their offensive coordinators more flexibility.

3. ERIK MCCOY, NEW ORLEANS SAINTS The Saints took McCoy in the second round of the 2019 draft out of Texas A&M with the hope that over time, he'd be able to fill the gap left by Max Unger's retirement. It took absolutely no time for that to happen, as McCoy proved to be excellent in all phases of his game right away. He brings formidable strength and leverage to the position, and he allowed just one sack last season in 692 pass-blocking snaps. Being a shot-caller in an offense as complex as Sean Payton's is a tough task for any player, much less a rookie, and McCoy had few if any growing pains.

4. RYAN KELLY, INDIANAPOLIS COLTS Since the Colts selected Kelly in the first round of the 2016 draft, he's been one of the toughest and most athletic centers in the NFL, capable of hitting his targets quickly at linebacker depth just as easily as he'll handle a nose tackle's bull rush. 2019 was a down year for Indianapolis' passing game following Andrew Luck's surprise retirement, but it didn't affect Kelly, who gave up one sack and 15 total pressures all season.

5. MITCH MORSE, BUFFALO BILLS The Bills pried Morse away from the Chiefs before the 2019 season, and just as he had in Kansas City, Morse proved to be one of the more mobile, agile and tough players at his position in the league. Not only did he run point for the Bills' aggressive, multi-faceted run game, but he also allowed just one sack and 16 total pressures on 600 pass-blocking snaps.

6. BRANDON LINDER, JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS In many ways, Linder is the prototype at the modern center position. He's strong enough and athletic enough, and while there isn't anything about him that necessarily stands out, he's smart enough to know how to beat interior defenders with angles and leverage, and he's tough enough to help his running backs pry open gaps. Last year, despite a tenuous quarterback situation, he allowed no sacks and no quarterback hits in 735 pass-blocking snaps.

7. FRANK RAGNOW, DETROIT LIONS Ragnow played 1,086 snaps at left guard for the Lions during his rookie season of 2018, then switched over and played 1,021 snaps at center in 2019, and he proved more than adept at both positions. Not only is he an outstanding power blocker when that's required, but his movement skills also allow him to do more than just hang around in a phone booth. He allowed just two sacks last season.

8. JC TRETTER, CLEVELAND BROWNS Throughout his career with the Packers and Browns, the former fourth-round draft pick out of Cornell has been one of the more enjoyable players to watch at his position. If you like a center who can fire out to the second level with top-shelf footwork, Tretter is your guy. He's not the most powerful player on this list, but he makes up for it with smarts and leverage when it's time to handle a 340-pound nose tackle. And despite the quixotic nature of Cleveland's passing attack in 2019, Tretter allowed just one sack and 16 quarterback hurries over 652 pass-blocking snaps.

9. ALEX MACK, ATLANTA FALCONS At 34 and coming off his 11th NFL season, Mack isn't the most agile center in the game, but mobility hasn't been his primary attribute for a long time. Instead, Mack uses leverage, toughness and a coach-level understanding of his position to pry open rushing lanes and keep interior defenders away from Matt Ryan.

10. RYAN JENSEN, TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS Jensen played all over the line in his three years with the Ravens after Baltimore took him in the sixth round of the 2013 draft out of Colorado State-Pueblo. But when the Bucs signed him to a four-year, $42 million contract before the 2018 season — a deal that was thought by many to be an overpay at the time — Jensen slotted in as Tampa Bay's center and never looked back. He's the perfect interior blocker for a high-volume passing game; Jensen has allowed just two sacks in 1,524 pass-blocking snaps over the last two seasons.

11. **GRAHAM GLASGOW**
Denver Broncos
12. **MAURKICE POUNCEY**
Pittsburgh Steelers
13. **MATT SKURA**
Baltimore Ravens
14. **WESTON RICHBURG**
San Francisco 49ers
15. **JAMES DANIELS**
Chicago Bears
16. **CONNOR MCGOVERN**
New York Jets
17. **DAVID ANDREWS**
New England Patriots
18. **NICK MARTIN**
Houston Texans
19. **A.Q. SHIPLEY**
Arizona Cardinals
20. **TED KARRAS**
Miami Dolphins

TOP 30 DEFENSIVE INTERIOR

DI

1. AARON DONALD, LOS ANGELES RAMS
The best defensive lineman in the NFL, and the best defensive player on most Sundays. Donald's sacks declined from 20.5 to 12.5 and his total pressures from 113 to 80, but he still left a trail of frustrated offensive linemen. At 6'1" and 280 pounds, Donald has an unrivaled combination of technique, strength and quickness to the pocket. He's an every-gap defender and could probably put up double-digit sacks as a pure end. Donald also led the league in tackles for a loss for the second straight season.

2. CAMERON HEYWARD, PITTSBURGH STEELERS The value of multi-gap winners along the defensive line in today's NFL is clear, and few are better than Heyward. He had an unusual breakout curve with 12.5 sacks in 2017, his second NFL season, in which he played at a Defensive Player of the Year level, and he's maintained that through the two seasons since. No interior defensive lineman had more run stops than Heyward's 44 in 2019.

3. KENNY CLARK, GREEN BAY PACKERS At 6'3" and 314 pounds, Clark can win everywhere from nose tackle to five-tech end, but he's especially effective between the guard and tackle as a penetrating, pass-rushing force. Clark, who has never put up more than six sacks in a season, is an example of why that statistic doesn't always mean as much as we think. Last season, including the playoffs, no interior defensive lineman had more quarterback hurries than Clark's 58, and only Aaron Donald had more total pressures than Clark's 69. Factor in his 45 run stops, and you've got one of the most complete players at his position.

4. DEFOREST BUCKNER, INDIANAPOLIS COLTS Traded to the Colts in the offseason for Indianapolis' 13th overall pick in the 2020 draft, Buckner will give Indy's defensive line a massive boost in any gap. Selected seventh overall in the 2016 draft, Buckner put up 7.5 sacks in the 2019 regular season, adding 2.5 more in the 49ers' playoff push. He added nine quarterback hits, 46 QB hurries and 39 run stops, and he was unquestionably a force multiplier in San Francisco's Super Bowl defense.

5. CHRIS JONES, KANSAS CITY CHIEFS
Jones has been one of the best inside/outside defensive linemen in the NFL over the last few years, and he made a legitimate case for Super Bowl LIV Most Valuable Player with his pressures and deflections. The Chiefs placed the franchise tag on Jones for the 2020 season, and they'd obviously be wise to come to terms with the Mississippi State alum, who will turn 26 in August, on a longer-term commitment.

Aaron Donald

6. FLETCHER COX, PHILADELPHIA EAGLES
Cox didn't perform quite up to his 2018 level in 2019, but it's hard to follow up 10.5 sacks and 101 total pressures when you're getting double-teamed all the time and your secondary is springing leaks. Cox still amassed 3.5 sacks, 60 total pressures and 23 run stops, with Pro Bowl-level tape most of the season.

7. GENO ATKINS, CINCINNATI BENGALS
Atkins' great play was lost in Cincinnati's 2–14 season and in a defense under Lou Anarumo that didn't always have the right players in the right places. He's still one of the best leverage tackles in the NFL, able to get under the pads of centers and guards and move them where he wants. Atkins had 4.5 sacks, 53 total pressures and 28 run stops, and he should be helped tremendously by the addition of ex-Texans nose tackle D.J. Reader in free agency.

8. GRADY JARRETT, ATLANTA FALCONS
Jarrett lasted until the fifth round of the 2015 draft because teams were concerned that he wasn't big enough. What those teams missed, and what the Falcons gained, was Jarrett's ability to fire off the ball with alarming speed and use strength and leverage to win the down. In 2019, he put up a career-high 7.5 sacks, with 46 pressures and 40 run stops.

9. MATT IOANNIDIS, WASHINGTON REDSKINS Perhaps the most underrated interior defensive lineman in the NFL. The fifth-round pick out of Temple in 2016 has been a consistently productive pass rusher over the last three seasons, but he took the proverbial next step in 2019 as a run stopper.

10. D.J. READER, CINCINNATI BENGALS
Reader was an outstanding nose tackle for the Texans, with more quickness than you'd expect from a 6'3", 347-pounder. Putting him next to Geno Atkins in Cincinnati's defensive front, as the Bengals did with a four-year, $53 million contract, should make every guard and center in the AFC North very nervous.

11. **MALIEK COLLINS**
Las Vegas Raiders
12. **JAVON HARGRAVE**
Philadelphia Eagles
13. **NDAMUKONG SUH**
Tampa Bay Buccaneers
14. **JURRELL CASEY**
Denver Broncos
15. **VITA VEA**
Tampa Bay Buccaneers
16. **LEONARD WILLIAMS**
New York Giants
17. **GERALD MCCOY**
Dallas Cowboys
18. **LARRY OGUNJOBI**
Cleveland Browns
19. **QUINTON JEFFERSON**
Buffalo Bills
20. **SHELDON RICHARDSON**
Cleveland Browns
21. **STEPHON TUITT**
Pittsburgh Steelers
22. **MAURICE HURST**
Las Vegas Raiders
23. **MICHAEL BROCKERS**
Los Angeles Rams
24. **ED OLIVER**
Buffalo Bills
25. **JONATHAN ALLEN**
Washington Redskins
26. **JORDAN PHILLIPS**
Arizona Cardinals
27. **CHRISTIAN WILKINS**
Miami Dolphins
28. **SHELBY HARRIS**
Denver Broncos
29. **DAQUAN JONES**
Tennessee Titans
30. **DEXTER LAWRENCE**
New York Giants

Donald: Joe Robbins; Smith: AP Photo/John Cordes

TOP 30 EDGE RUSHERS

Edge

1. ZA'DARIUS SMITH, GREEN BAY PACKERS
An increasingly effective rotational inside-outside pass rusher during his four years with the Ravens, Smith turned his play up several notches after the Packers gave him a four-year, $66 million contract and set him loose in Mike Pettine's multiple fronts. No defensive lineman had more total pressures in 2019 than Smith's 104, and his 40 run stops (tied with Minnesota's Danielle Hunter for fourth best in the NFL) point to the complete nature of his skill set.

2. NICK BOSA, SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS
Most collegiate edge rushers need a year or so to get up to speed, but Bosa didn't get that memo. In his rookie campaign, the second overall pick totaled nine regular-season sacks, four more in the postseason, and his 102 total pressures ranked second in the league behind only Green Bay's Za'Darius Smith. Bosa is also a plus run stopper, and there aren't any real holes in his game.

3. DANIELLE HUNTER, MINNESOTA VIKINGS Hunter was a third-round pick in 2015 despite his first-round athleticism because he didn't know the nuances of the position. But he's developed from a "run-around guy" to one of the better speed rushers in the league, with a sneaky-great bull rush and run-stopping abilities. He put up 14.5 sacks for the second straight season in 2019, and only Za'Darius Smith and Joey Bosa had more total pressures than Hunter's 97. The more impressive stat, however, might be his 40 run stops.

4. SHAQUIL BARRETT, TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS The winner of the 2019 "From Out of Nowhere" sweepstakes, Barrett led the league with 19.5 sacks in 2019 after five seasons as a decent rotational end in Denver, with just 14 sacks in those seasons combined. While it was tough for Barrett to find his place alongside Von Miller and Miller's bookends, Barrett was the perfect speed end in Todd Bowles' Buccaneers defense. Tampa Bay placed the franchise tag on Barrett after stealing him in 2019 with a one-year, $4 million contract.

5. CHANDLER JONES, ARIZONA CARDINALS Year after year, Jones proves himself to be one of the most productive pass rushers in the NFL. Year after year, his name is rarely mentioned when it comes to naming the top players at his position. Jones has played four seasons with the Cardinals after four years with the Patriots, and in those last four seasons, nobody has more quarterback sacks than Jones' 60. Jones had 19 takedowns in 2019; he led the league with 17 in 2017; and he's put up double-digit sacks every year since 2015.

Za'Darius Smith

6. CAMERON JORDAN, NEW ORLEANS SAINTS Jordan doesn't get the recognition he deserves, and it's because he's almost too consistent, as weird as that sounds. He's put up double-digit sacks in five of the last seven seasons, can kick inside and is a practiced, disciplined run stopper. His coaches, teammates, and opponents understand his value, though.

7. T.J. WATT, PITTSBURGH STEELERS Anyone who thought Watt was overcooked as a first-round pick in 2017 got an education when Watt put up seven sacks and 42 total pressures as a rookie. Watt has just become better from there, with 52 pressures in 2018 and 81 in 2019. And in each of his three seasons, the 6'4", 252-pound speed rusher has been an outstanding run stopper. He's a major cog in the Steelers defense.

8. VON MILLER, DENVER BRONCOS Miller isn't quite the force he was in the mid-2010s when his speed around the edge, ability to bend through the arc and underrated power through blockers made him just about impossible to stop, but he's far from washed-up at 31. Last season, he totaled eight sacks and 77 total pressures.

9. JOEY BOSA, LOS ANGELES CHARGERS
Bosa lost a bit of name traction to his younger brother Nick last season, but there was nothing invisible about his contributions to the Chargers' defense in 2019. After an injury-plagued 2018 campaign, he bounced back nicely with 11.5 sacks, 71 total pressures and 49 run stops. No other edge defender had more than Bosa in that last category.

10. KHALIL MACK, CHICAGO BEARS When a player of Mack's talent puts up 8.5 sacks, 70 total pressures and 34 run stops and people are alarmed, it's only because we expect so much more. Perhaps it was an off-year, or he was dealing with unspoken injuries. At this point, we'll chalk it up as a fluke and expect him to return to form in 2020.

11. **CALAIS CAMPBELL**
Baltimore Ravens
12. **MYLES GARRETT**
Cleveland Browns
13. **ARIK ARMSTEAD**
San Francisco 49ers
14. **DANTE FOWLER JR.**
Atlanta Falcons
15. **JADEVEON CLOWNEY**
Free Agent
16. **EVERSON GRIFFEN**
Free Agent
17. **YANNICK NGAKOUE**
Jacksonville Jaguars
18. **FRANK CLARK**
Kansas City Chiefs
19. **PRESTON SMITH**
Green Bay Packers
20. **TREY FLOWERS**
Detroit Lions
21. **ROBERT QUINN**
Chicago Bears
22. **DEMARCUS LAWRENCE**
Dallas Cowboys
23. **KYLE VAN NOY**
Miami Dolphins
24. **MATTHEW JUDON**
Baltimore Ravens
25. **BRANDON GRAHAM**
Philadelphia Eagles
26. **MELVIN INGRAM III**
Los Angeles Chargers
27. **J.J. WATT**
Houston Texans
28. **WHITNEY MERCILUS**
Houston Texans
29. **JUSTIN HOUSTON**
Indianapolis Colts
30. **HAROLD LANDRY III**
Tennessee Titans

TOP 30 LINEBACKERS

LB

Eric Kendricks

1. ERIC KENDRICKS, MINNESOTA VIKINGS
The modern NFL requires linebackers to be full-field run-and-chase players as opposed to run-stopping headbangers, and Kendricks is the perfect such player in Mike Zimmer's zone-based nickel defense. Kendricks is a tackle-collecting machine. With his on-field expertise and movement abilities, he can sniff out run plays before they happen, and he's so often in the right place for the optimal coverage.

2. DARIUS LEONARD, INDIANAPOLIS COLTS
There are very few linebackers in the NFL who do everything required of the position better than Leonard does. In his rookie season of 2018, he led the league in both solo and combined tackles. In 2019, he started dropping into coverage more, doing that to the tune of five interceptions and an opponent passer rating allowed of 79.0 — a very low number for a defender dealing mostly with short and intermediate passes.

3. BOBBY WAGNER, SEATTLE SEAHAWKS Wagner led the NFL with 159 tackles in 2019, but as we've said, tackle totals aren't the best barometer for linebacker performance. Wagner's tackles matter because he's so smart on the field and so quick to the ball, and he's one of the best 'backers in the NFL in pass coverage. He's also an excellent, if occasional, blitzer, as his three sacks and 14 total pressures in 2019 indicate.

4. DEMARIO DAVIS, NEW ORLEANS SAINTS The Saints signed Davis to a three-year, $24 million contract in 2018, hoping that he could help an underperforming linebacker corps. Given the relatively small numbers in that deal, it's safe to say that Davis' current team got more than it bargained for. A ferocious run stopper who has developed into an above-average cover man, Davis has one foot in the old school at his position, but he's learned to adapt as a true full-field defender.

5. CORY LITTLETON, LAS VEGAS RAIDERS Jon Gruden and Mike Mayock made a very savvy move with the acquisition of Littleton, the former Rams star, with a three-year, $35.25 million contract. Littleton will immediately make that defense better as both a run stopper and especially as a short and intermediate defender in pass coverage. Few NFL linebackers have a better sense of what quarterbacks are about to do.

6. LAVONTE DAVID, TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS David has been one of the most athletic and productive players at his position since the Bucs selected him in the 2012 draft. And since his rookie season, no other NFL player has more solo tackles than David's 724, which is one indication of how quickly he gets to the ballcarrier and how suddenly he's able to shut things down when he gets there. Add in his blitzing ability and coverage skills, and it's fascinating that he hasn't made a Pro Bowl since 2015.

7. JAMIE COLLINS SR., DETROIT LIONS Collins was at his best with the Patriots because de facto defensive coordinator Bill Belichick has always understood Collins' unique gifts as a pass rusher, run stopper and coverage man. Signing a three-year, $30 million contract with the Lions may or may not provide a re-run of Collins' time with the Browns, who didn't quite know what to do with him. The presence of head coach and former Pats defensive coordinator Matt Patricia should ostensibly help.

8. FRED WARNER, SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS
San Francisco's top-level defense had several stars last season, but Warner was as important as anybody else — especially when fellow linebacker Kwon Alexander lost half the season to a pectoral injury. At that point, Warner upped his game in every category from run fits to advanced coverage concepts, culminating in a Super Bowl LIV interception.

9. DEION JONES, ATLANTA FALCONS Jones is the heir to the Derrick Brooks/Brian Urlacher linebacker prototype — that 'backer who can seamlessly cover seam and post routes with an easy backpedal at least 10 yards from his initial position. Jones isn't the most definitive run stopper or tackler on the move, but few players at his position are able to handle the needs a defense has for a linebacker who can tour the field in a big hurry.

10. JAYLON SMITH, DALLAS COWBOYS Had Smith not suffered a horrific injury in the 2016 Fiesta Bowl, he would have been a top-five prospect. The Cowboys took a shot on him in the second round of the 2016 draft, and Smith rewarded them with outstanding production after what amounted to a medical redshirt season. In 2019, he set career highs in tackles (142), solo tackles (83) and passes defensed (nine).

11. **KWON ALEXANDER**
San Francisco 49ers
12. **LEIGHTON VANDER ESCH**
Dallas Cowboys
13. **JAYON BROWN**
Tennessee Titans
14. **DEVIN BUSH**
Pittsburgh Steelers
15. **DONT'A HIGHTOWER**
New England Patriots
16. **ZACH CUNNINGHAM**
Houston Texans
17. **NICK KWIATKOSKI**
Las Vegas Raiders
18. **SHAQ THOMPSON**
Carolina Panthers
19. **JOE SCHOBERT**
Jacksonville Jaguars
20. **ANTHONY BARR**
Minnesota Vikings
21. **BENARDRICK MCKINNEY**
Houston Texans
22. **MATT MILANO**
Buffalo Bills
23. **K.J. WRIGHT**
Seattle Seahawks
24. **ALEXANDER JOHNSON**
Denver Broncos
25. **JORDAN HICKS**
Arizona Cardinals
26. **TODD DAVIS**
Denver Broncos
27. **DAVID MAYO**
New York Giants
28. **BLAKE MARTINEZ**
New York Giants
29. **THOMAS DAVIS SR.**
Washington Redskins
30. **TREMAINE EDMUNDS**
Buffalo Bills

Kendricks: AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez; Mathieu: Tim Umphrey

TOP 20 SLOT DEFENDERS

SLOT

Tyrann Mathieu

1. TYRANN MATHIEU, KANSAS CITY CHIEFS Calling Mathieu just a slot defender is like calling Jimi Hendrix just a guitar player — in truth, Mathieu excels everywhere from outside cornerback to the slot to free safety. But in 2019, Mathieu allowed just 297 yards on 41 catches, with a league-best 69.1 opponent passer rating allowed. As with every other aspect of his game, Mathieu turned things up a notch as the Chiefs went on their Super Bowl run.

2. K'WAUN WILLIAMS, SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS Richard Sherman was of course the 49ers' primary cornerback last season, but it's fair to say that Williams was the team's second-most important cornerback. In 414 slot snaps (including the postseason), he allowed no touchdowns, picked off two passes and proved a perfect part of Robert Saleh's coverage concepts.

3. D.J. HAYDEN, JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS Hayden worked between outside cornerback, some snaps in the box and a ton in the slot last season, and he was a bright spot in a Jaguars defense that mostly continued its decline over the last couple seasons. The former first-round pick of the Raiders has overcome injury issues to become a valuable and versatile defender.

4. BRIAN POOLE, NEW YORK JETS The Jets' pass defense wasn't exactly brilliant in 2019, lagging far behind its run defense. But Poole, who became a good slot defender with the Falcons before the Jets signed him to a one-year, $3 million contract in 2019, did his best to solidify a secondary that played nickel on 77 percent of its snaps. He allowed just 32 catches on 51 slot targets for 237 yards, one touchdown and one interception.

5. NICKELL ROBEY-COLEMAN, PHILADELPHIA EAGLES Best known for a certain uncalled pass interference in the 2018 NFC Championship Game against the Saints, Robey-Coleman has actually been a prototype slot defender since his days with the Bills and through his last three seasons with the Rams. He allowed just 32 catches on 53 targets in the slot last season, and he'll be asked to replace Malcolm Jenkins as a do-it-all guy in Philadelphia's defense.

6. MACKENSIE ALEXANDER, CINCINNATI BENGALS With Xavier Rhodes and Trae Waynes allowing a total of 10 touchdowns and just one interception (from Waynes) last season, Alexander presented the only relative stability in Minnesota's cornerback group. Now, he'll join Waynes on a Bengals unit in need of better coverage. It's unclear what Waynes brings to that particular equation, but Alexander, who played inside at a very solid level all season, should present an upgrade.

7. TRAMON WILLIAMS, FREE AGENT There aren't a lot of successful 36-year-old defensive backs, but Williams proved to be the exception in 2019. Playing everywhere from outside cornerback to free safety to 546 opportunities in the slot, Williams used his understanding of route concepts and quarterback tendencies to limit opposing inside receivers to 30 catches on 48 targets for just 198 yards, and one touchdown to one interception. He'll be an intriguing late-offseason pickup for some team, as his two-year deal with the Packers has expired.

8. C.J. GARDNER-JOHNSON, NEW ORLEANS SAINTS Despite great tape and obvious versatility at Florida, Gardner-Johnson lasted until the 105th overall pick in the fourth round of the 2019 draft. The Saints managed to steal him there, and Gardner-Johnson became an immediate asset in Dennis Allen's defense, in which there were at least five defensive backs on 84 percent of the team's snaps. Working against a level of receiver and route groups he'd never seen before, the rookie gave up just 17 catches on 29 targets for 169 yards.

9. MALCOLM JENKINS, NEW ORLEANS SAINTS The Saints selected Jenkins in the first round of the 2009 draft, and when the New Orleans welcomed Jenkins back home in the 2020 free agency period after six years with the Eagles, head coach Sean Payton said that letting Jenkins get away was one of the biggest mistakes he'd made. Jenkins is still a great slot defender, though he also plays a lot of box linebacker and free safety, and it will be very interesting to see how defensive coordinator Dennis Allen fits Jenkins and 2019 rookie slot star Chauncey Gardner-Johnson on the field at the same time. It's a nice problem to have.

10. CHRIS HARRIS JR., LOS ANGELES CHARGERS The Broncos took a chance on Harris as an undrafted free agent in 2011, never expecting that as the slot defender became a more important position overall, Harris would become the prototype for the position with his field intelligence, aggressiveness and change-of-direction skills. Denver moved him outside at times, especially after he signed a five-year, $42.5 million contract extension in 2014, but when he's in the slot, Harris still has a lot left to offer. The Chargers, with whom Harris signed a two-year, $20 million contract, plan to put him there most of the time.

11. **LOGAN RYAN**
    Free Agent
12. **STEPHON GILMORE**
    New England Patriots
13. **MARLON HUMPHREY**
    Baltimore Ravens
14. **JOURDAN LEWIS**
    Dallas Cowboys
15. **SEAN MURPHY-BUNTING**
    Tampa Bay Buccaneers
16. **KENNY MOORE II**
    Indianapolis Colts
17. **BRADLEY ROBY**
    Houston Texans
18. **RASHAD FENTON**
    Kansas City Chiefs
19. **BYRON MURPHY**
    Arizona Cardinals
20. **JAVIEN ELLIOTT**
    Carolina Panthers

TOP 30 CORNERBACKS

CB

Stephon Gilmore

1. STEPHON GILMORE, NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS Not satisfied with becoming the best man coverage cornerback in the NFL in 2019, Gilmore was also one of the best slot defenders, and just as adept when the Patriots switched to zone schemes. Quarterbacks targeted him 97 times last season, and he gave up just 48 catches for one touchdown and six interceptions. Allowing a catch rate under 50 percent as a primary island cornerback in man coverage is not something you see more than a few times in a decade.

2. RICHARD SHERMAN, SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS Sherman had been affected by injuries late in his time with the Seahawks, and the thought was that he might be done. His 2019 season put any of those fears to rest. Including the postseason, Sherman allowed a paltry 45.3 opponent passer rating, picked off five passes to just one touchdown allowed and gave up just 123 yards after catch on 34 allowed receptions.

3. TRE'DAVIOUS WHITE, BUFFALO BILLS The Bills took White with the 27th overall pick in the 2017 draft and have watched him become perhaps the best zone cornerback in the NFL — an ideal fit for a defense that ran zone coverage on 57 percent of its snaps last season. An incredibly patient defender for such a young player, White didn't allow a touchdown all season on 88 targets, but he did pick off six passes.

4. J.C. JACKSON, NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS Jackson had a lot of help around him in the NFL's best secondary last season, but his numbers — and great tape — transcend his surroundings to a degree. Last season, no cornerback with at least 50 percent of his team's defensive snaps allowed a lower opponent passer rating than Jackson's 35.9, and he allowed just 31 catches on 65 targets for 328 yards, one touchdown and five interceptions.

5. DENZEL WARD, CLEVELAND BROWNS Cleveland's pass defense was decidedly average in 2019, and the Browns also played more zone coverage than cornerbacks Ward and Greedy Williams were attuned to. Ward still allowed just 31 catches on 69 targets for 426 yards, one TD and two interceptions last season, and he could be even more effective in a more aggressive scheme designed by new defensive coordinator Joe Woods.

6. CASEY HAYWARD JR., LOS ANGELES CHARGERS While he's not quite the same cornerback as he was in 2015 and 2016 when it was just about impossible to complete passes against him in a consistent fashion, he allowed just 26 catches on 47 targets last season for 329 yards. He'll allow the occasional big play, but overall, he's still one of the best technicians in the league, ideal for a zone-heavy defense as the Chargers prefer.

7. DARIUS SLAY, PHILADELPHIA EAGLES One of the best press cornerbacks in the NFL, Slay seemed to be a perfect fit for Matt Patricia's man-heavy coverage concepts. But this offseason, he became one more name the Lions shipped out, landing with the Eagles in a trade for a third- and fifth-round pick. Slay gives the Eagles the lockdown corner they were lacking in 2019.

8. MARCUS PETERS, BALTIMORE RAVENS Peters can be a boom-or-bust cornerback, which is one reason he's gone from the Chiefs to the Rams to the Ravens in his five-year career. No other defender has more interceptions than Peters' 27 since his rookie year of 2015; Stephon Gilmore ranks second with 17. Both with the Rams and the Ravens last season, Peters continued that pace, allowing five TDs to his five interceptions. He showed more discipline and consistency with Baltimore the longer he was in that defense, though.

9. JASON MCCOURTY, NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS No surprise to see three Patriots in the best cornerbacks list after the Pats put up a historically great secondary. McCourty alternated between outside cornerback and the slot in 2019, allowing 28 catches on 49 targets for just 260 yards, no TDs, one interception and an opponent passer rating of 63.3 — the lowest of his career.

10. BYRON JONES, MIAMI DOLPHINS The Dolphins signed Jones to a five-year, $82.5 million contract this offseason, and you may wonder why a guy with two picks over five seasons with the Cowboys would get that kind of money. In truth, Jones' coverage abilities bypass simple interception totals. Last season, he allowed just 30 catches on 53 targets for 331 yards and 106 yards after the catch. Jones should help turn Miami's formerly moribund secondary into a relative strength.

11. **BASHAUD BREELAND**
Kansas City Chiefs
12. **MARLON HUMPHREY**
Baltimore Ravens
13. **JAMES BRADBERRY**
New York Giants
14. **JALEN RAMSEY**
Los Angeles Rams
15. **STEVEN NELSON**
Pittsburgh Steelers
16. **ROSS COCKRELL**
Free Agent
17. **SHAQUILL GRIFFIN**
Seattle Seahawks
18. **BRIAN POOLE**
New York Jets
19. **CHRIS HARRIS JR.**
Los Angeles Chargers
20. **ADOREE' JACKSON**
Tennessee Titans
21. **JANORIS JENKINS**
New Orleans Saints
22. **JOE HADEN**
Pittsburgh Steelers
23. **CHARVARIUS WARD**
Kansas City Chiefs
24. **GREEDY WILLIAMS**
Cleveland Browns
25. **EMMANUEL MOSELEY**
San Francisco 49ers
26. **KEVIN KING**
Green Bay Packers
27. **MIKE HILTON**
Pittsburgh Steelers
28. **JAIRE ALEXANDER**
Green Bay Packers
29. **TRAYVON MULLEN**
Las Vegas Raiders
30. **KYLE FULLER**
Chicago Bears

Gilmore: Matthew J. Lee/The Boston Globe via Getty Images; Harris, Fitzpatrick: Peter Brouillet

TOP 20 SAFETIES

Safety

Anthony Harris

1. ANTHONY HARRIS, MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Last season, there was one defensive player who came away with seven interceptions while allowing no touchdowns. It was Harris, perhaps the most underrated defensive back in the NFL. Opposing quarterbacks could manage just a 55.0 passer rating when throwing to his area. Harris has the intelligence and recovery speed to ensure that 2019 was no fluke.

2. JUSTIN SIMMONS, DENVER BRONCOS

After a 2018 season in which he allowed a 78.7 percent catch rate, Simmons put his best NFL season together in 2019, allowing 53.2 percent of his targets to be caught, with no touchdowns and four interceptions. He's one of the more impressively versatile safeties in the league, showing up everywhere from the box to the slot to the deep third.

3. DEVIN MCCOURTY, NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS Most great defenses need a great deep safety, and that was McCourty for the historically solid Patriots defense in 2019. McCourty had an interception in each of his first four games last season, and he wasn't targeted four times until Week 5. That tells you a lot about his range in the deep third of the defense.

4. EARL THOMAS III, BALTIMORE RAVENS

Thomas wore a different uniform for the first time in his NFL career in 2019, but the former Seahawk looked just as solid with the Ravens as he had in his pre-injury Legion of Boom days. He allowed just six catches on 14 targets all season and forced teams away from post routes and other concepts to the middle of the field.

Minkah Fitzpatrick

5. MARCUS WILLIAMS, NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Williams is best known for whiffing coverage on the Vikings' miracle touchdown pass from Kirk Cousins to Stefon Diggs that ended the Saints' 2017 season, which is unfortunate. 2019 was Williams' best season to date, as the Utah alum allowed just 11 catches on 21 targets for a measly 139 yards and four interceptions to just one touchdown. Whether in the deep third or in the box, Williams has become a do-it-all shutdown coverage player.

6. KEVIN BYARD, TENNESSEE TITANS No defensive player has more interceptions over the last three NFL seasons than Byard's 17, and it isn't particularly close — Ravens cornerback Marcus Peters and Eagles cornerback Darius Slay are tied for second at 13. Byard can get beaten at times by speed receivers, but his knack for the turnover comes from impressive field diagnostics and route understanding.

7. HARRISON SMITH, MINNESOTA VIKINGS Minnesota's cornerback situation was a disaster in 2019, so it helped that in Smith and Anthony Harris, Minnesota had perhaps the league's best safety duo. Smith has always been one of the smarter and tougher safeties in the league, and last season, neither he nor Harris allowed a TD to their areas.

8. MINKAH FITZPATRICK, PITTSBURGH STEELERS

The Dolphins picked Fitzpatrick in the first round of the 2018 draft because of his versatility — he played six different positions for the Alabama defense. But when the Steelers got hold of him in a trade two weeks into the 2019 season, they turned him into a deep safety almost exclusively, and it worked like a charm. Fitzpatrick allowed just eight catches on 16 targets for 89 yards for Pittsburgh, allowing no touchdowns while coming away with five interceptions.

9. XAVIER WOODS, DALLAS COWBOYS There are few better recent NFL bargains than Woods, whom the Cowboys stole in the sixth round of the 2017 draft out of Louisiana Tech. Woods has increased his interception totals in each of his professional seasons and has become an outstanding deep safety overall. Woods has allowed just two touchdowns in his entire NFL career, and there was a three-game stretch from Weeks 11-13 when he wasn't targeted once on 110 total coverage snaps. Quarterbacks know whom to avoid.

10. EDDIE JACKSON, CHICAGO BEARS Interceptions don't tell the entire story with any defensive back, though Jackson wasn't talked about as much when he managed just two picks in 2019 as opposed to his six takeaways in 2018. But Jackson allowed virtually the same catch rate (54.8 percent in 2019; 54.5 percent in 2018), the same number of receiving yards (256) and one fewer touchdown (from three to two). The opportunities weren't as present, but Jackson's talent was.

11. **DERWIN JAMES**
    Los Angeles Chargers
12. **QUANDRE DIGGS**
    Seattle Seahawks
13. **JAMAL ADAMS**
    New York Jets
14. **MONTAE NICHOLSON**
    Washington Redskins
15. **HA HA CLINTON-DIX**
    Green Bay Packers
16. **RODNEY MCLEOD**
    Philadelphia Eagles
17. **DURON HARMON**
    Detroit Lions
18. **TRE BOSTON**
    Carolina Panthers
19. **ADRIAN AMOS**
    Green Bay Packers
20. **JUAN THORNHILL**
    Kansas City Chiefs

NFL COACHING CAROUSEL

Carolina Panthers

Old: Ron Rivera

NEW: MATT RHULE

Previous Job: Head Coach, Baylor University

Pros: Rhule rapidly resuscitated two moribund college programs in his two head-coaching stops, taking Temple from 2–10 in his first season to 10 wins in both his third and fourth seasons and guiding Baylor from 1–11 in 2017 to 11–3 in 2019. Given the hands he was dealt at both stops, his 47–43 coaching record is far better than it appears at first glance. Rhule coaxed a high level of play from Baylor quarterback Charlie Brewer and will try to do the same with new arrival Teddy Bridgewater.

Cons: Rhule's NFL experience consists of a single season as the Giants' assistant offensive line coach. Hiring a successful college coach with no pro experience has proven to be a feast (Jimmy Johnson) or famine (Steve Spurrier, Nick Saban) proposition historically. Rhule has been handed the keys to the Panthers kingdom, but is he up to the task? No one knows.

Final Analysis: A proven turnaround artist on the college level, Rhule is a master of saying the right things while not really saying much at all. As *Charlotte Observer* writer Scott Fowler put it, "Rhule isn't going to lose a game for several months. And with the NFL regular season so far away, Rhule is keeping all his options open in his ever-expanding universe of football possibilities." A reliance on coachspeak will only get you so far in the NFL, though.

Cleveland Browns

Old: Freddie Kitchens

NEW: KEVIN STEFANSKI

Previous Job: Offensive Coordinator, Minnesota Vikings

Pros: The Browns needed to restore credibility in the wake of Freddie Kitchens' disastrous one season, and they seem to have succeeded as Stefanski immediately went to work building a competent staff and trying to instill a little confidence within a beaten-down fan base. Stefanski had a successful season in charge of a Minnesota offense that ranked fourth in the NFC in rushing and fifth in scoring.

Cons: Last season was Stefanski's first at the coordinator level in his 14th season with the Vikings — not exactly a meteoric rise. Any first-time head coach represents a gamble, and the team that knows him best never saw fit to entrust the ship to Stefanski.

Final Analysis: The feeling in Cleveland is fatigue. A few fans are excited by Stefanski, who is impressive on a personal level, but most are so beaten down by all the futility that they're essentially saying, "Wake me up when you win a few." Fortunately for Stefanski, the team he is inheriting does have some talent.

Rhule: AP Photo/Mike McCarn; Stefanski: AP Photo/Phil Long

Dallas Cowboys

Old: Jason Garrett

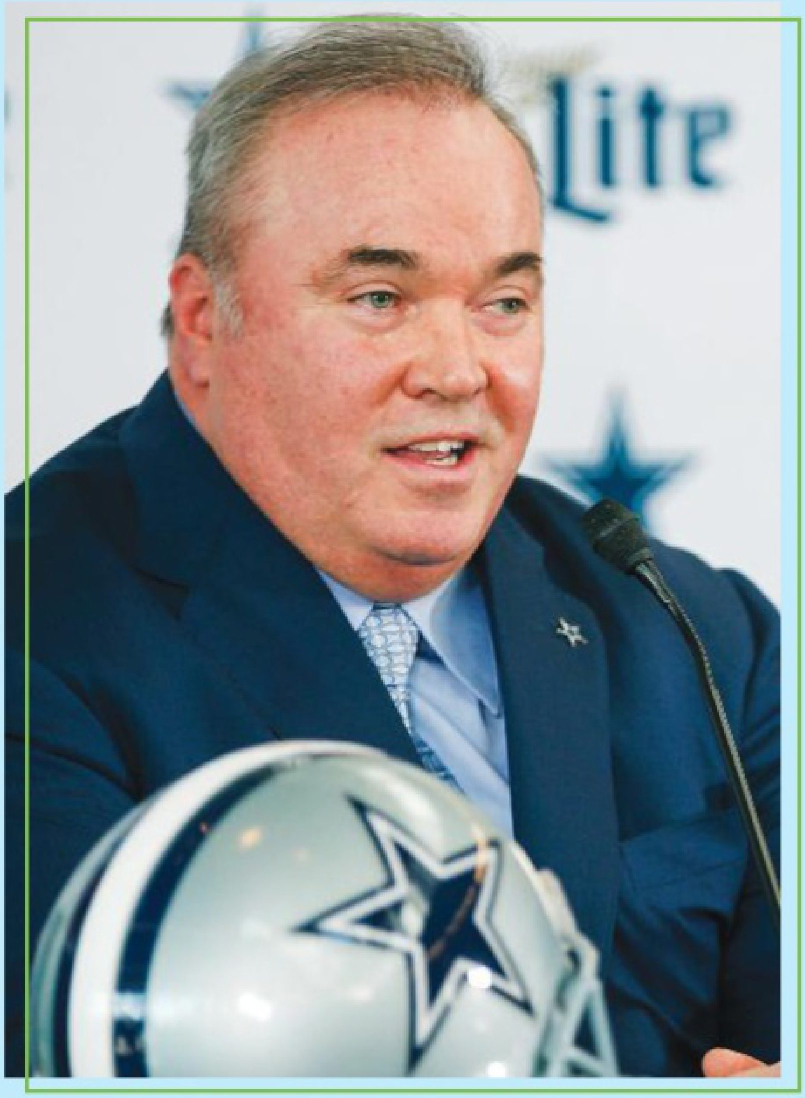
NEW: MIKE MCCARTHY

Previous Job: Former Head Coach, Green Bay Packers

Pros: It's not every year that a Super Bowl-winning coach falls into your lap. McCarthy climbs off the couch to take the reins of another storied franchise, and he brings an impressive head-coaching record with him — 125–77–2 in the regular season, with another 10 postseason wins to his credit, including Super Bowl XLV. McCarthy won 10 or more games eight times in 12-plus seasons in Green Bay, leading the Pack to nine playoff berths. He was a leader and philanthropist in the Green Bay community and will bring that same approach to Dallas.

Cons: McCarthy was fired for a reason. The Packers were stagnating under his leadership and failed to get the most out of Aaron Rodgers' prime years. Dak Prescott is good, but he's not Aaron Rodgers.

Final Analysis: Cowboys fans are more excited to get rid of Jason Garrett than they are to get Mike McCarthy. But the new coach already has something Garrett doesn't: McCarthy's Super Bowl victory with the Packers over the Steelers came at AT&T Stadium and has Cowboys fans dreaming of their first Super Bowl trip since 1995. McCarthy won't claim play-calling duties as he did in Green Bay, but offensive coordinator Kellen Moore directed the league's top offense in 2019.



New York Giants

Old: Pat Shurmur

NEW: JOE JUDGE

Previous Job: Wide Receivers Coach, New England Patriots

Pros: Judge brings a winning pedigree to a franchise that's starved for wins. In his three seasons as a special teams assistant at Alabama, the Tide won two national championships (2009, '11). From there, he moved to New England, where he has spent the last eight seasons, serving as special teams coordinator (2015-18) and wide receivers coach (2019). He earned three Super Bowl rings on the Patriots staff.

Cons: He's never been so much as a coordinator above the special teams level. Given that lack of experience, how will he handle the media fishbowl of New York? He's already raised eyebrows by refusing to refer to franchise cornerstones Daniel Jones and Saquon Barkley by name, saying he wanted to "protect the players" and "take bullets for the coaches."

Final Analysis: Giants fans are so battered by all the losing that they'll look at anything as a positive. So they're cautiously optimistic. The early reports on Judge are encouraging; he's part of the Belichick/Saban coaching tree, and he comes across like a good football coach, which is an important part of the equation for a fan base that's searching for something to latch on to while waiting nervously for another season and hoping that the Giants didn't screw up their latest hire.

Washington Redskins

Old: Jay Gruden

NEW: RON RIVERA

Previous Job: Head Coach, Carolina Panthers

Pros: Riverboat Ron pulls into D.C. with a solid reputation in tow. He won three straight division titles in Carolina (2013-15) and took the Panthers to Super Bowl 50. He ranks first in Carolina franchise history in wins (79) and playoff appearances (four). He guided mercurial quarterback Cam Newton to three Pro Bowl appearances and an NFL MVP award (2015).

Cons: Rivera was fired in Carolina, and if he can't stay in Panthers owner David Tepper's good graces, how will he survive Dan Snyder? Rivera will have to assert himself where his owner is concerned, and that's not necessarily in line with his personality.

Final Analysis: Rivera has drawn almost universal praise since his hiring. He's restored some humanity to an organization that seemed to lack that essential element. And the fact he doesn't have to deal with former GM Bruce Allen is huge. The Redskins have a long way to go to win back the fans' trust, but this was a major first step.

McCarthy: AP Photo/Brandon Wade; Judge: AP Photo/Frank Franklin II; Rivera: Peter Brouillet

QB

CHAOS

The two most captivating QBs in 2020 — 43-year-old Tom Brady and 23-year-old Lamar Jackson — represent different eras of an evolving position

BY ERIC ADELSON

When Tom Brady first runs onto the field as a Tampa Bay Buccaneer, dressed in red and pewter and serenaded by cannon blasts from the Raymond James Stadium pirate ship, it will be one of the most memorable sports moments of the new decade. Brady's decision to bail on title-bejeweled New England for the sunny shores of Florida, where he'll replace talented but turnover-prone Jameis Winston, was his sport's version of LeBron James' Decision — except without the melodramatic TV show. Not even Brady's new Tampa landlord, Derek Jeter, left the Yankees after winning a string of rings.

Brady's move isn't just seismic for the Patriots and Bucs; it reflects an emerging chaos for his position. Cam Newton, a Carolina icon, has been jettisoned. Philip Rivers, the most famous Charger this side of LaDainian Tomlinson, is now in the Midwest. And Drew Brees, who is almost as New Orleans as jazz itself, has already signed a contract with NBC for whenever he decides to retire from the Saints. Even Nick Foles has changed addresses twice since winning a Super Bowl in February of 2018.

It all adds up to a whirlwind of movement that will take time to absorb, but it also reflects a tectonic shift underneath the surface. It's not just that established passers now start over like Tinder users. It's more that the very definition of "franchise quarterback" is under review.

On the Pro Football Hall of Fame website, there is an article from 2005 devoted to the origins of the NFL passer rating statistic. It explains how metrics experts came together in the early 1970s to come up with a reliable and understandable form of measuring quarterback performance. Those experts set a standard of 1.0 and a ceiling of 2.375 for four passer categories (completion percentage, yards per attempt, touchdown percentage and interception percentage). The four categories are then divided by six and multiplied by 100. The maximum rating becomes 158.3. The standards, however, are a bit antiquated after five decades.

"To gain a 2.375 in completion percentage," the article explained, "a passer would have to complete 77.5 percent of his passes. The NFL record is 70.55 by Ken Anderson (Cincinnati, 1982)."

That record has been matched or beaten six times in the 14 seasons since the article came out. Drew Brees has authored five of those marks, and Sam Bradford owns the sixth. Just in the last season, both Derek Carr and Ryan Tannehill came within 0.3 percentage points of Anderson's 70.55 completion percentage target.

And when that article came out, Steve Young's 1994 passer rating of 112.8 ranked second to only Peyton Manning in 2004. Since then, Young has been bested 11 times, with five of those 11 higher ratings coming in the last two seasons — from Tannehill, Brees (twice), and 23-year-old quarterbacks Patrick Mahomes (in 2018) and Lamar Jackson (in 2019).

"When the stat was created about 50 years ago," explained Mike Lynch of Pro-Football-Reference.com in an email, "they aimed to make an average performance of 66.7."

In 2019, the lowest rating by a starter in the league was from Andy Dalton, with a 78.3.

In other words, the standard of excellence in throwing the football successfully has shot through the roof in the past several seasons. Manning's 121.1 passer rating from 2004 was stratospheric at the time (and still is), but it was seen as the culmination of years of chemistry building, talent development and playbook streamlining. Now you have quarterbacks in new situations putting up Manning-like numbers: Foles (2013), Tannehill, Mahomes and Jackson.

Winston, whose departure from Tampa hardly marked the end of an era, is the Bucs' all-time passing leader and led the NFL with 5,109 yards through the air last season. Tampa won five of its last eight games and could easily have finished 9–7 if not for overtime losses. Yes, he threw a laughable 30 interceptions in 2019, but in a historic context, Winston was hardly a failure. The same could be said for the Lions' Matthew Stafford, who has zero playoff wins and yet has also thrown for more yards through age 32 than Joe Montana did in his entire career.

The passer rating was invented to give a better barometer of quarterback play, but now it feels obsolete. That makes it even tougher to evaluate a passer who may be a step away from greatness but also perpetually behind the times.

Former Lions quarterback Dan Orlovsky posted a video on Twitter in early April about No. 1 draft pick Joe Burrow. Orlovsky is now an NFL analyst for ESPN, and the breakdown of one of Burrow's college plays drew a text message from TV colleague Mike Golic Jr.:

"What are you looking for in a quarterback?"

Orlovsky wrote back right away: "Nothing."

The answer was not flippant. Orlovsky is not looking for a prototype. There is no prototype. Not anymore.

"The typical pocket used to be the right shoulder of the right tackle to the left shoulder of the left tackle — about seven or eight yards wide," Orlovsky explained by phone. "The quarterback would drop back, the pocket would collapse, and you'd have to be tall to see over it.

"Now guys are in the shotgun more. The ball is out quicker. The pocket is like an accordion. You don't need to be 6'5" to see. Lanes are created."

And it's not just that lanes are created; it's that lanes are created more and more by the quarterbacks themselves. Orlovsky compares the evolution of football to the evolution of basketball.

"Quarterbacks have to be scorers, not shooters," he said. "I'll create your open jump shot. It's even more paramount to be a scorer. You can create your own shot."

There's a whole casserole of factors that have made this happen. Quarterbacks are faster, for one thing. They're often faster without being shorter. And they're often faster without losing the ability to make good pocket decisions.

Some of those decisions are made easier by offenses. Jet sweeps and bubble screens are not only more foolproof in the modern era, but they're also more dangerous if the quarterback can keep the ball and create damage. In the play Burrow made on Orlovsky's Twitter post, he checked into a shorter pass and then quickly checked again — into a longer pass. He sold this in part by faking a run. Burrow mentally and physically sold two plays after the original play had begun. He settled for what was effectively a fourth option.

The new-era standards: Super Bowl MVP Patrick Mahomes, whose on-the-move wizardry has revolutionized the position, and record-setting rusher and MVP Lamar Jackson, the game's most electric talent.

Brady: Joe Robbins via AP; Jackson: W.E. Smith; Mahomes: Jamie Squire/Getty Images

An offseason of frenzied QB movement saw Philip Rivers land in Indy. The old-school Rivers gets by on guile and subtle footwork rather than raw skill.

The evolution of the offensive line has added a subtler but also crucial change. Blockers are both bigger and more agile. The spread offense at the high school and college level has led to more speed and better footwork.

"You're seeing people attacking with misdirection and the whole field," says Jaguars head coach Doug Marrone. "All those things have affected the way you play up front. Before, you could take the biggest kids or [guys who are] not that fast or don't catch the ball well and throw them on the offensive line. Now, because of the style of offense, you're seeing more and more things from offensive linemen. You're seeing more of the perimeter screens. You're seeing tackles get out there on the perimeter and blocking. I've seen an increase in overall athleticism at the five positions."

So it's not just that quarterbacks are better at selling; blockers are better at selling, too.

Then there are the hidden changes, like receiving gloves. "The grippy polymer used on the new generation of gloves," reported the *New York Times* in 2019, "is about 20 percent stickier than a human hand — according to a recent study by the MIT Sports Lab."

That doesn't mean receivers make 20 percent more catches, but it does mean that drops in a prior era might be catches now. It also expands catch radius, on top of the longer arms on players like Travis Kelce and Darren Waller. One of the tried-and-true Ravens offensive options throughout 2019 featured Jackson throwing to the outstretched arms of one of his three tight ends — all 6'4" or taller.

Now consider the fact that roughing the passer is being called more stringently. That buys both space and time for passers to operate.

If you add it all up, quarterbacks like Burrow can create better threats both near and far — with everything from an RPO to a wheel route to an athletic tight end in the slot to a go route.

"You want to play zone, but you can't," Orlovsky said. "That guy (on defense) that you don't want to get lined up in man? Teams know that. It gets to be like taking candy from a baby."

This leaves general managers in a weird spot. When the bar for quarterback excellence rises, so do the expectations. If Mahomes can throw it over the mountains, fool a defense with a no-look pass, call a late-game "Wasp" play to Tyreek Hill that turns the Super Bowl momentum around, tuck the ball and run when he needs to and do it all on his rookie contract (with a $645,000 base salary for 2019) … where does that leave someone like Gardner Minshew II? Or Jared Goff? Or Carson Wentz? Or even Rookie of the Year Kyler Murray? Aren't they all on a shorter timeframe now?

> ***"The typical pocket used to be the right shoulder of the right tackle to the left shoulder of the left tackle — about seven or eight yards wide. The quarterback would drop back, the pocket would collapse, and you'd have to be tall to see over it. Now guys are in the shotgun more. The ball is out quicker. The pocket is like an accordion. You don't need to be 6'5" to see. Lanes are created."***
>
> — Former QB and current NFL analyst Dan Orlovsky on the changing QB prototype

For that matter, what are the expectations for Jackson, who has already won an MVP on his rookie contract but is 0–2 in the playoffs?

At the very least, it seems like the days of the "game manager" quarterback are over. Maybe Brad Johnson or Joe Flacco could win a Super Bowl with a constellation of defensive stars in earlier times, but now? Jimmy Garoppolo already has a strong professional résumé with a career 23-6 record as a starter (including the postseason), yet he's heard as much criticism as praise even after coming within a whisker of a championship. Meanwhile, Mitch-

Rivers: Peter Brouillet; Brees: AP Photo/Butch Dill

ell Trubisky, who had one playoff appearance and did rather well in that game (303 passing yards with a touchdown and no picks), might as well change his name to “Not Pat Mahomes.”

The question Golic posed to Orlovsky by text is a pressing one: What are you looking for in a quarterback?

Nothing? Or everything?

This is where the embarrassment of recent riches gets tricky.

The traditional dropback quarterback still hasn’t quite been dethroned. Mahomes’ 2018 season places 10th all time in passer rating. (Jackson’s 2019 is 11th.) But almost every season ranked ahead of him belongs to a more stationary quarterback (in reverse order): Manning, Brees, Brees again, Ryan, Brady, Tannehill, Foles, Manning again and Aaron Rodgers. (Interestingly, Mahomes had the same number of rushing attempts in his best passer-rating season as Rodgers did in his: 60.)

So are we in a transitional phase? Do we still have one foot in the Manning-Brady-Brees era? Is the pocket passer still the safest bet?

“Rivers, Brees, Brady — those guys have put up unbelievable numbers, and their athleticism gets overlooked,” says Marrone. “Their movement in the pocket is outstanding. The feel they have is outstanding.”

Also, let’s face it, it’s usually easier to see the field when you’re not moving. Rodgers’ and Mahomes’ throwing-while-running highlights are insane, but those guys are not actively trying to leave the pocket too often. You only have a few seconds, and it’s harder when you spend several of those seconds in motion.

“How well do you play in panic?” Orlovsky said. “The quarterback position is reactionary and instinctual. Can you think your way through things?”

But then again, if you can have someone like Cam Newton or Andrew Luck — in their prime — wouldn’t you want that in this era? If you can have someone who can do it all, and do it all well, is that better than having, say, Ben Roethlisberger — who has won Super Bowls without moving the pocket?

This is a harder decision than ever now. If you install a system to fit a quarterback that you hope will be the next Lamar Jackson, then what happens if he’s not? Do you try to find another Lamar Jackson anyway?

Drew Brees thrived in the era of traditional dropback QBs, and he’s continued to thrive as the position has begun to demand more mobility and varied skill sets.

Rating Game

A passer rating of 100.0 for a season, much less a career, was once a nearly unattainable gold standard. Now, it’s almost a minimum expectation for an effective passer. Here’s a look at the growing number of QBs who are now shattering the century mark with regularity.

YEAR	PASSER RATING LEADER	NO. OF QBS WITH 100+ RATING
1995	Jim Harbaugh, 100.7	1
2000	Brian Griese, 102.9	2
2005	Peyton Manning, 104.1	2
2010	Tom Brady, 111.0	4
2015	Russell Wilson, 110.1	6
2018	Drew Brees, 115.7	9
2019	Ryan Tannehill, 117.5	9

Mobile QBs

Here’s a look at the some of the high-profile quarterbacks who changed franchises during a busy offseason:

PLAYER	OLD TEAM	NEW TEAM
Tom Brady	Patriots	Buccaneers
Teddy Bridgewater	Saints	Panthers
Andy Dalton	Bengals	Cowboys
Nick Foles	Jaguars	Bears
Marcus Mariota	Titans	Raiders
Cam Newton	Panthers	Free Agent
Philip Rivers	Chargers	Colts
Jameis Winston	Buccaneers	Saints

Meanwhile, back in Tampa, the Bucs have gone with traditional passers — Winston, Ryan Fitzpatrick and now Brady. If Brady doesn’t work out, do the Bucs go for yet another pocket passer even as the league inches toward a new definition of a modern quarterback?

In Indianapolis, have the Colts upgraded with Rivers? Or have they gone “backwards” by getting older and less modern?

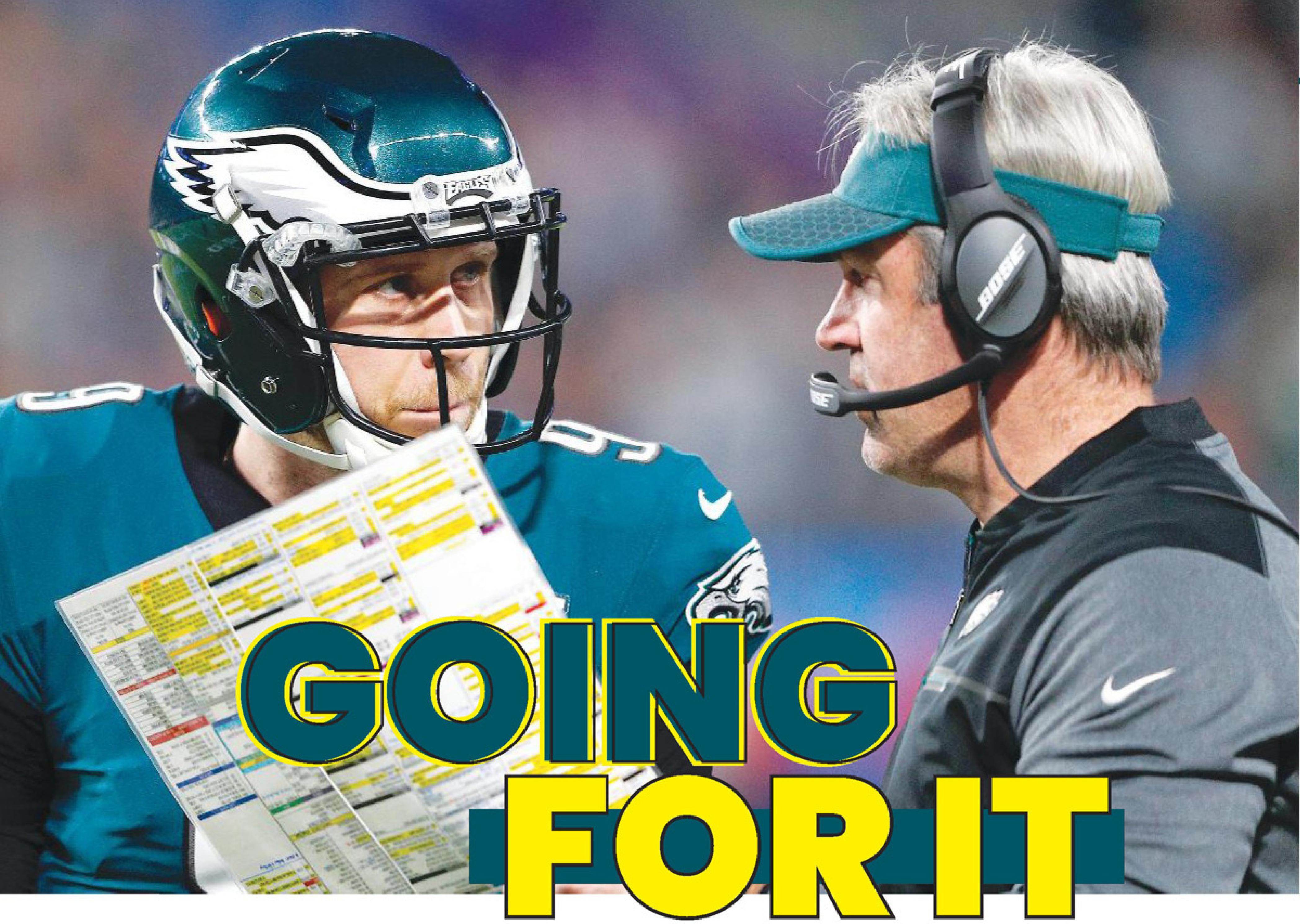
In the Crescent City, if Brees plays only one more season, do the Saints go all-in on Taysom Hill (or new arrival Winston) or try to draft another Brees or Teddy Bridgewater?

“However you want to build your team, you’re going to have to build it around the quarterback,” says Marrone. “If it’s a mobile quarterback, you may build your line differently than if you have a dropback quarterback.”

One outlier might be the Ravens, who have threaded the needle with a pro-style offense veiled by the most mobile of quarterbacks. So arguably the two most interesting teams in the season to come will be the team with the 23-year-old gazelle and the team with the 43-year-old GOAT. We are in two simultaneous eras — at least for now.

“If Lamar wins a championship,” Orlovsky said, “everyone will be changing their mind.”

In the era of sky-high passer ratings and ever-higher expectations for franchise quarterbacks, it’s fair to say that everyone will be changing their mind anyway.



GOING FOR IT

The NFL's new love affair with fourth-down conversions

BY RIVERS MCCOWN

Super Bowl LII will forever be known for one play — the Philly Special. The Eagles faced a fourth-and-goal late in the second quarter against favored New England leading 15–12. Rather than take the sure three points from the one-yard line, Eagles coach Doug Pederson dialed up a trick play that Nick Foles caught for a touchdown, pushing the lead to 10.

Pederson's aggressiveness was not limited to that play. He also converted a fourth-and-1 at his own 45 with 5:39 left trailing 33–32. That drive gave the Eagles the lead for good. Those two fourth-down decisions helped the Eagles to a long-awaited Super Bowl title.

For a long time, mathematical applications of going for it on fourth down were met with shrugs of indifference — at best — from coaches. Outright scorn was often the response.

But statistical analysis suggesting that head coaches don't go for it often enough has been part of the conversation since at least the 2000s, if not way earlier. As football analysis has grown more sophisticated, this was a hanging curveball just waiting to be hit.

Football Outsiders has a statistic called the Aggressiveness Index that measures how much more (or less) likely a head coach is to go for it on fourth down compared to his peers. The decisions are compared against the historical average rather than the current season. The number centers around 1.0, so a coach who was at 0.8 would be 20 percent less likely to go for it, for example.

Super Bowl LII happened at the conclusion of the 2017 season. Since then, the league-wide Aggressiveness Index has exploded:

NFL Aggressiveness Index, 2014-2019

YEAR	AI	OVERALL ATT.	EXPECTED ATT.	OVERALL OPPS.	RATE
2014	0.98	197	201	3,217	6.1%
2015	1.00	211	212	3,265	6.5%
2016	1.06	233	220	3,193	7.3%
2017	1.03	215	209	3,259	6.6%
2018	1.37	272	199	3,049	8.9%
2019	1.46	305	209	3,044	10.0%

Not only did Pederson end a long Super Bowl drought for the Eagles, but he also brought the power of aggressiveness to the attention of his peers. Coaches love to copy a winner.

John Harbaugh's aggressiveness index in 2019 was 3.95. Matt Nagy, Pat Shurmur and Pederson all went for it twice as often as the historical league average. For the first time in modern NFL history, coaches started going for it on fourth-and-short on their

Philly Special: Scott Boehm via AP; Jackson: Maddie Meyer/Getty Images

own side of the field. Even coaches you maybe wouldn't call analytical savants tried it, coaches like Houston's Bill O'Brien and Minnesota's Mike Zimmer. (Zimmer, of course, would also say that going for it against Washington at home was his dumbest decision as Vikings head coach. Minnesota won the game, 19–9.)

Various head coaches were criticized last year for not being aggressive, but perhaps none more so than Pete Carroll. Carroll and offensive coordinator Brian Schottenheimer put together an overtly 1980s game plan. They had more rushing attempts than any NFL team that trailed as often as it did, and they won 11 games mostly thanks to Russell Wilson's four fourth-quarter comebacks. They won games in which they trailed 20–6 (Cleveland), 21–7 (Tampa), 20–14 (Rams), and 10–0 (49ers) by being forced to abandon their run-heavy game plan and having an ace quarterback run a hurry-up offense.

Carroll never learned his lesson, explaining loudly throughout the season about how much he preferred to be conservative. With the Seahawks down 21–3 to Green Bay in the Divisional Round, Wilson led another furious comeback to get the score within 28–23. But with 2:41 left in the game, on fourth-and-11, the Seahawks punted and never got the ball back.

"We were thinking about going for it in that sequence, but not at fourth-and-11," Carroll said in his postgame presser. "We thought our odds were so low. We had all the clock, we had the time, we had all the opportunities to stop them to get the ball back."

Carroll was one of only four full-time head coaches to have a below-average aggressiveness index last season, and the only one of the four to have a winning record. (The other three were Jon Gruden, Vic Fangio and Matt Patricia.)

We should go for it more — but when?

The NFL is increasingly becoming a league that relies not on time of possession but rather on total number of possessions — and what you do with those possessions.

The Chiefs-Ravens game in Week 3 last season was a case in point. Concerned about giving Patrick Mahomes any extra possessions to score, the Ravens aggressively went all-in on going for it on fourth down. The game featured one of the worst performances of Lamar Jackson's season; he completed just 22-of-43 passes for no touchdowns and 267 yards. But the Ravens had a dominant run attack, converted three-of-four fourth-down attempts and came back to make a 17-point deficit a five-point deficit in a 33–28 loss. In the context of that quarterback performance, it was a wildly impressive outing for Baltimore.

It's also worth exploring the downside of such a strategy. When the Ravens exited the playoffs after a 14–2 regular season, they failed on two key fourth-down conversions and four total fourth-down conversions in their 28–12 loss to the Titans. It is true that the Titans were playing well, and it is also true that the Titans had spent a lot of their offseason importing run-stuffing players after struggling at times in short-yardage situations.

But it could also be argued that the Ravens were a little too eager to start trying to convert those fourth downs. Facing a 7–0 deficit against the Titans at the start of the second quarter, the Ravens attempted to convert a fourth-and-1 from their own 45-yard line, which seems like something an underdog would do and not a heavy favorite playing at home. Their failure gave Tennessee a short field and led to a quick touchdown. But you can understand the decision — the Ravens had been eight-for-eight on fourth-and-1 during the regular season.

There's a reason fourth-down conversions have tended to mainly be championed as an underdog tactic by analytics: Increasing variability can sometimes have dire consequences in a low-possession game.

Interestingly, despite his reputation, Bill Belichick was one of the more conservative coaches last year. He had more qualifying opportunities (124) to go for it on fourth down than any head coach, but he went for it only 13 times, putting him 17th in the NFL in fourth-down aggressiveness. He explained his philosophy to ESPN's Greg Garber back in the early 2000s:

"The more third-and-1s you make, the more likely you are to go for it on fourth-and-1," Belichick said then. "You also factor in the defensive side of the ball. How good of a short-yardage or goal-line team is your opponent? When you add those two up and you're real good and you don't think the other team is that proficient at it, that's one thing. If it's vice versa, then maybe that skews you."

Fourth-down attempts still come with risk. Baltimore's regular-season aggression led to postseason futility.

Belichick's team last year struggled to convert third downs and lost fullback James Devlin to injury in mid-September, further complicating their short-yardage game plan. On third-and-4 or less, the Patriots converted only 43-of-83 attempts. For perspective, the Ravens converted 48-of-78. The Patriots converted only twice in eight fourth-down attempts of four yards or less.

In short, while it's true that on a general level, teams should be going for it on fourth down more often than they have been — and that adjustment has begun — it's also true that the particular situation may affect a coach's thinking. Your quarterback may be nursing a bum knee and unable to execute your money play — how does your play-caller react? Is his second-favorite play call in this situation something that he has confidence in? If it's not, will he be able to see past his gut feeling to look at the percentages?

If there was a poster child for fourth-down attempts last year, it was Harbaugh, who pushed that strategy to the limit and showed more success with it than any other coach; the Ravens converted 17-of-24 fourth-down attempts (70.8 percent) to lead the NFL. Jackson's read-options keyed an attack that was a case study in NFL run game success, and when you combined that with a historic level of aggressiveness, it yielded an offense the likes of which we haven't seen in the NFL in a long time. Unlike Pederson's Eagles, though, the Ravens sputtered at the end of the season. Their aggressive fourth-down strategy turned on them.

It took a Super Bowl win to get head coaches to be more aggressive in the first place. It would probably take a Ravens Super Bowl win to get fourth-down rates to approach the actual optimal numbers that statisticians would suggest.

FREE YARDS

The Andy Reid Method

BY RIVERS MCCOWN

Down 24–0 at home, the Chiefs were opening the playoffs in a fashion that is familiar to Kansas City's fan base: sleepy, listless and heartbreaking. A long kickoff return from Mecole Hardman set Kansas City up in Texans territory, though, and on the second play of the drive, Patrick Mahomes lasered a ball in to Damien Williams running a wheel route out of the backfield for a touchdown to begin what would be a 28-point second quarter avalanche to take the lead before halftime.

Williams started the play out wide with Texans linebacker Zach Cunningham in coverage. As Williams motioned in and moved to the other side of the formation, the Texans were forced by their coverage rules to switch the assignment. Instead, it was linebacker Jake Martin, mostly a pass rusher, who would have to cover Williams. Sammy Watkins ran a quick "in" route from his slot position, and Travis Kelce ran a "go" route straight up the seam that carried his man coverage defender, Justin Reid, with him. The Texans, who were playing a single high safety with everyone else within five yards of the line of scrimmage, could not afford to give up space. Because of the design of the play, Martin had to get past Watkins. Bradley Roby, who was in coverage on Watkins, had to chase him through Kelce. Cunningham had to chase the play from the other side of the formation through the other routes. Williams was so free that Matt Moore could have hit the pass.

In their win over the Texans, the Chiefs would generate 77 yards after the catch on passes thrown within two yards of the line of scrimmage. They hit a screen to Tyreek Hill against the Titans for a touchdown. While the 49ers held the Chiefs to just 51 yards after catch on passes within two yards of the line of scrimmage in the Super Bowl, Kansas City's go-ahead score with 2:50 left was yet another play that showed how Andy Reid's offense can overwhelm a defense.

On that decisive play, the Chiefs initially lined up in a set with

Reid: AP Photo/Paul Sancya; Mahomes: AP Photo/Ben Margot

three receivers to the left, then motioned Hill inside and to Mahomes' right. Slot defender Jimmie Ward followed Hill, a strong indicator of man coverage. At the snap, the 49ers sent a six-man blitz with middle linebacker Fred Warner, and the Chiefs faked a handoff to Hill, running to Hill's left. The running back, Williams, came over the top of that handoff and flared out to the right. Kelce, the lone receiver to the right side, picked Richard Sherman effectively, and Ward, the last coverage player on that side of the field, had to go over Kelce to get to Williams. With Kelce's alignment not being very wide, there was just enough crease for Mahomes' pass to lead Williams to the end zone, giving the Chiefs a lead they'd never relinquish.

It is very easy to say that the Chiefs won Super Bowl LIV because Mahomes is the greatest quarterback in the NFL. It's mostly a true sentiment, because Mahomes is clearly special. Reid and his Super Bowl counterpart, Kyle Shanahan, really are neck-and-neck as far as creating easy offense for their quarterbacks — the major difference between those two teams on that day was that Mahomes is simply not limited in the same ways that Jimmy Garoppolo is. But if anything comes out of that win for the Chiefs that other NFL teams can slap on to their existing game plans, it has to be the way that Reid schemes easy yardage for his receivers through motion, screens and pre-snap discernment. You can't create another Patrick Mahomes, but you can create enough easy offense to make life manageable for mere mortals at quarterback.

Reid has been using this approach for a long time. It was a staple of his offenses in Philadelphia; it was what he used to carry Alex Smith to the best production of Smith's career. The statistical record shows that nobody in the game is as good at creating short-yardage space as Reid is, often with different types of designs from year to year depending on the strengths and weaknesses of his team. In 2018, with Mahomes in the backfield, the Chiefs ran more running back screens than all but the Lions and Eagles (by only one and two, respectively) and averaged 11.2 yards per pass. In 2013, with Smith as his starting quarterback, Reid's running backs averaged 7.6 yards per screen, and the Chiefs ran 48 running back screens, more than anybody but New Orleans.

The biggest feather in Reid's cap in the 2019 season was that the Chiefs were able to maintain home-field advantage in the AFC playoffs despite the fact that Mahomes missed games. Part of that was because the Ravens lost to the Titans, but getting the No. 2 seed and the bye in the first place mattered a lot. Since the 2012 Ravens won the Super Bowl, there hasn't been a single team that has even made the Super Bowl, let alone won it, without a first-round bye.

And at no time was Reid's skill in offensive design more important than when the Chiefs were forced into starting Moore for a two-plus-week stretch that included wins over Denver and Minnesota and a narrow loss to the Green Bay Packers.

Against the Packers, Reid was able to dial up a 25-yard pass at the 50 to get into field-goal range as time was running out in the second quarter. He had Hardman out to the left in a two-tight end set, with Watkins alone to the right. Hardman went into motion inside the formation, and, instead of going to the right side next to Watkins, scuttled back into a running back position. There was little motion in response from the Packers, which indicated a zone, but because Green Bay had started out balanced, the Packers had several zone defenders to the left side of Kansas City's formation who were stuck with no real assignments.

Moore flipped the ball out to Hardman as a swing pass, with running back Williams acting as a lead blocker. It should have been a one-on-one opportunity for Hardman, but Williams flubbed his block a bit. Nevertheless, Hardman cut back towards daylight in the interior, leaving Packers rookie Darnell Savage overpursuing to the outside. With good blocking in front of him, Hardman was able to pick up enough yardage to get the Chiefs into field-goal range. After kicking that field goal, the Chiefs were up by three at halftime. And keep in mind — this was a fully healthy Packers team with a good defense, Aaron Rodgers and all the bells and whistles. They came into the game favored by five despite playing at Arrowhead. Per Football Outsiders, Moore finished with a 15.5 percent DVOA on 98 passing attempts — DVOA can essentially be read as the percentage above average the player played compared to the league, weighted by how strong the defenses he played were. If Moore had played enough snaps to get into qualified passer territory, that DVOA would have been among the league's top 10, over players like Deshaun Watson, Matt Ryan and Carson Wentz.

It is quite tempting to be dismissive of the Chiefs winning the Super Bowl as coming on the back of a once-in-a-generation quarterback. But when you see that Reid can float even a mediocrity like Moore into a place where he's performing empirically better than actual franchise quarterbacks, it's something worth noting. The pipeline for easy offense to the NFL has been open for a long, long time. Don't be surprised if whoever takes snaps for the Panthers benefits from what Joe Brady did to make life easier for Joe Burrow at LSU. Coaching offense in the modern NFL is more of a game of ideas than it's ever been.

That's the lesson we should learn from what the Chiefs did: Just by running motion, getting the ball to athletes in space and using disguises, they're picking up uncontested yards near the line of scrimmage in a league where almost every running game struggles to do so. And because opponents are having to adjust to it, that opens up more passing lanes downfield and in the intermediate area. Which is all patently unfair when you already have Mahomes to erase bad downs anyway, but that's just the cherry on top of the Chiefs sundae.

If Reid's offense without Mahomes can get you 100 free yards per game, other teams need to start copycatting these concepts instead of lamenting not having Mahomes.

Sure, Patrick Mahomes throws downfield lasers, but much of the Chiefs' success comes on swing passes and screens.

TIGHT END 2020

Thanks to the versatility of players like George Kittle and the newly unretired Rob Gronkowski, tight end is coming into focus as the 21st century's new glamour position

BY MICHAEL BRADLEY

Since Jon Embree has spent the past 35 years as either a player or coach in the collegiate or NFL ranks, it is unlikely he has spent a lot of time playing fantasy football. The idea of his spending hours poring over player ratings by "experts" is pretty amusing, given his ability to evaluate them himself. Embree deals in reality football, and, more specifically, tight ends.

That doesn't mean he isn't completely oblivious to the popular pastime's machinations. But rather than embrace the stats-heavy philosophy fans prefer, he looks at coaching his position in a way that runs counter to what fantasy owners would like to see.

And he knows it.

Embree played tight end at Colorado and for two years with the Rams, before an injury halted his career. He has coached since 1991 and spent the past three years with San Francisco. He grades his charges a little differently than those who are looking solely for glamour stats.

"I look at it this way: How many third downs did you convert and how did you do in the red zone?" Embree says. "Did you move the chains, and did you help us score? Some people catch 80 passes in a season and average eight or nine yards a catch. If you have nine catches in a game, how many were for first downs? That defines what kind of game you had.

"If you had eight first downs and only 16 yards, that's a helluva job. If you have three catches for six yards but score three TDs, that's a great game."

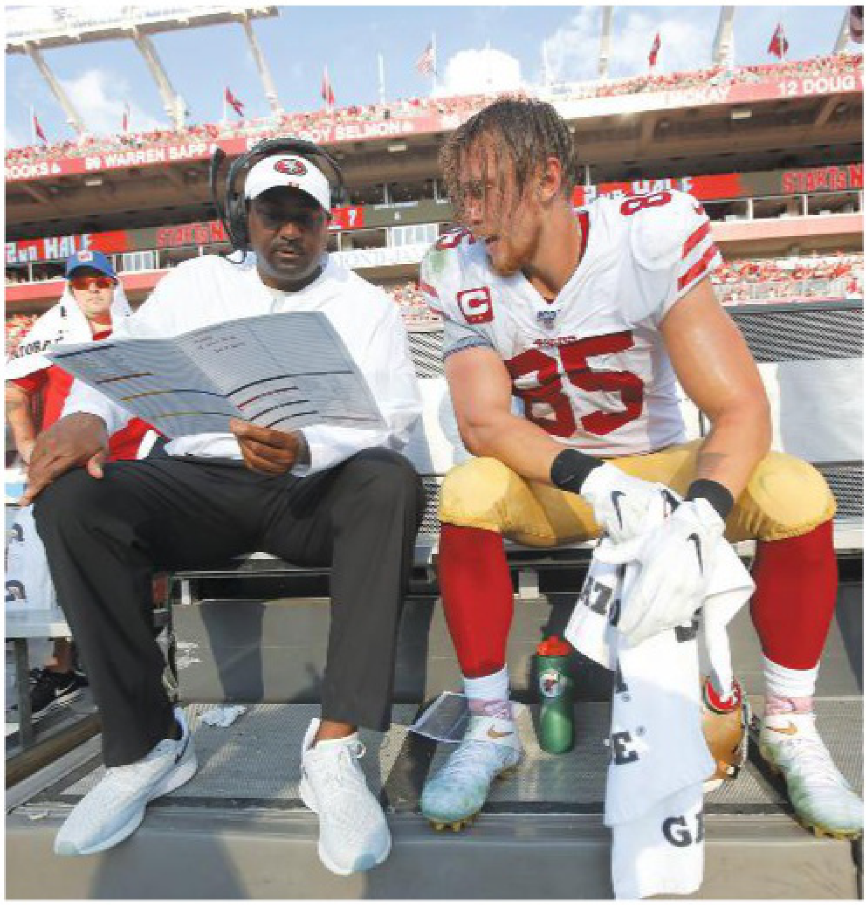
Some blocking would be nice, too. Embree likes tight ends who block. That's one of the reasons he is such a big fan of George Kittle, the Niners' All-Pro/folk hero, whose combination of high production and open-field badassery has endeared him to fans throughout the league. Kittle is the perfect combination of a 21st century downfield practitioner of the position and an old-school, hand-in-the-turf brawler who doesn't mind being pinned to the tackle and expected to maul a defensive end.

During his three years in the league, Kittle has averaged 72 catches per year (86.5 the past two) for 13.6 yards per reception and has scored 12 times. And though he is different than some of his peers at the position, due to his ability to block — "He was willing to do whatever was needed to be great," Embree says — the 6'4", 250-pound Kittle is the very model of a modern NFL tight end. He thrives when matched up against smaller linebackers and safeties in the passing game and can't be caught by bigger defenders charged with chasing him.

Throughout the NFL, teams are turning loose players like Kittle against defenses that struggle to handle them while at the same time having to pay attention to outside weapons capable of blowing holes in the coverage ceiling. Kittle, Kansas City's Travis Kelce, Oakland's Darren Waller, Zach Ertz of the Eagles and new Cleveland signee Austin Hooper are among the vanguard of new-style tight ends who are no longer simply safety valves for quarterbacks under siege.

And don't forget that brand-new WWE champion in Tampa Bay. Rob Gronkowski, whom New England traded to the Bucs in April, can do everything a tight end must — when healthy — and at a level higher than just about anybody else in NFL history. Those guys can get up the seam, run deeper routes, accumulate yards after the catch — and still post up to get five yards on third-and-4.

"When you get a guy who can match up in the middle of the field against any linebacker, safety or dime coverage defender on third down, that's a mismatch," Cincinnati offensive coordinator Brian Callahan says. "A handful of guys in the league can beat those defenders with no problem. When you have a dynamic athlete like that, it's great."



49ers tight ends coach Jon Embree likes TEs who can move the chains, make big plays and block. He hit the trifecta with George Kittle.

Kittle: John McCoy/Getty Images; Michael Zagaris/San Francisco 49ers/Getty Images

Today's tight ends are products of a variety of circumstances. An important one is the continued emphasis on passing in the college game — and even the high schools — which has helped the position evolve on campuses from merely an in-case-of-emergency weapon to someone used more frequently and more by design. Freed from run-blocking assignments that require more bulk and make it harder to release into pass routes, tight ends have become super-sized wideouts with greater speed and ball skills superior to those of their predecessors. That doesn't always allow NFL teams to use them as three-down performers, but there aren't too many skill players capable of completing all of the traditional duties their positions have required. For instance, some running backs will never be any good in pass protection. Teams use so many different personnel packages throughout a given game, and athletic tight ends allow for flexibility that can put extreme pressure on defenses trying to figure out how they can cover the outside guys, along with a tight end capable of scorching them up the middle of the field.

"Teams are using tight ends differently," an NFL executive says. "They are doing a better job of looking at the tight end position, and if they have an explosive player, figuring out how to get him the ball.

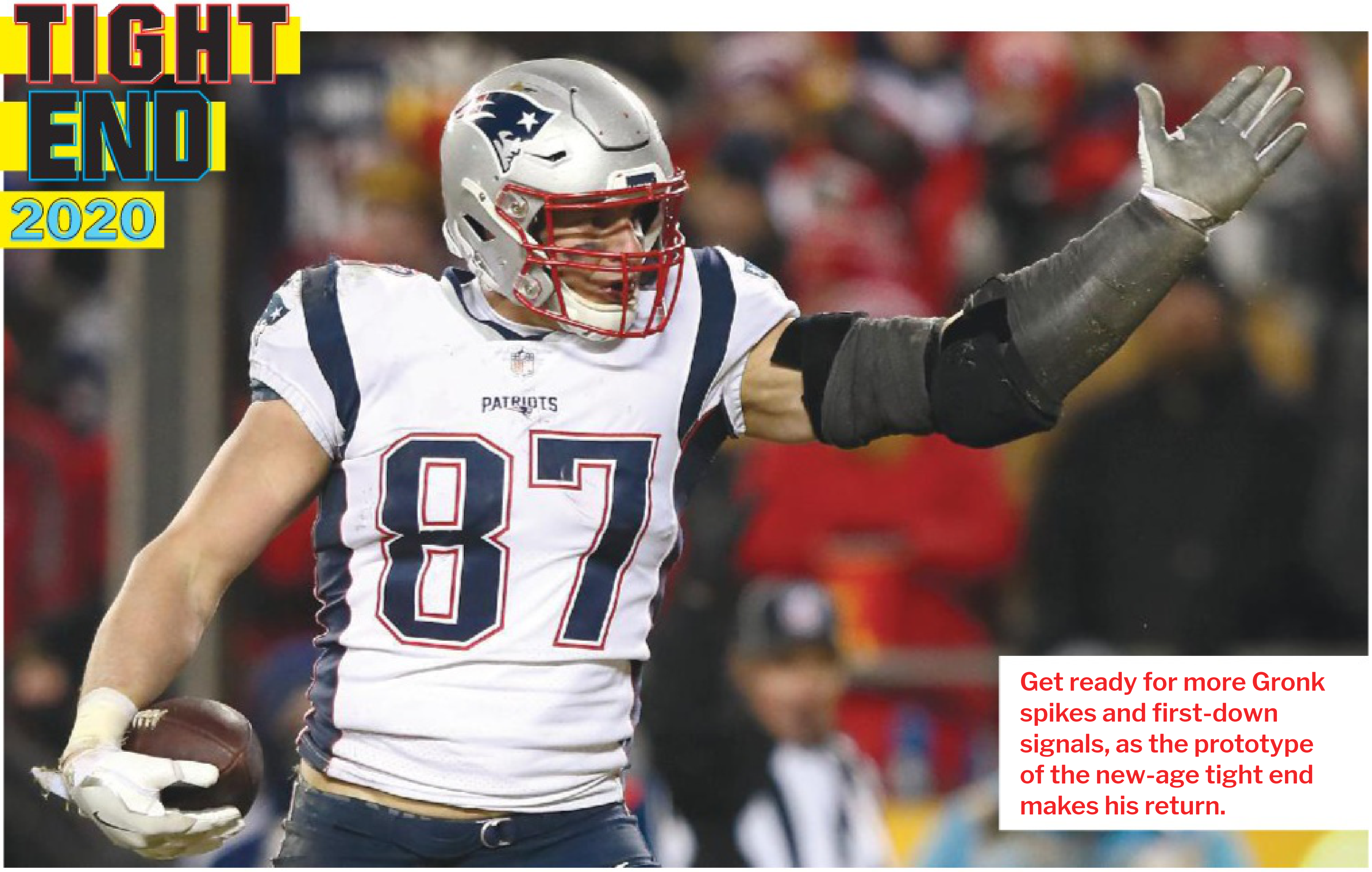
"Forget the labels. It's about playmakers."

• • •

Brian Schottenheimer isn't picking on D.J. Swearinger. He's just pointing out that if the 5'10", 205-pound Saints safety were trying to cover the 6'4", 250-pound Kittle, he might have some trouble.

"That's one of the best matchups [the Niners] could see on game day," the Seattle offensive coordinator says.

There are several situations like that on every Sunday throughout an NFL season. Defenses devote so much attention to the big swingers on the outside that they often end up trying to stop tight ends like Kittle with smaller safeties or slower linebackers. Teams try to find out what the tight end can do and then how best to use him. There are still some excellent blockers at the



Get ready for more Gronk spikes and first-down signals, as the prototype of the new-age tight end makes his return.

position, like Trey Burton, who spent the past two seasons in Chicago, and 6'6", 262-pound Jack Doyle of the Colts, who can handle the rough stuff on the line but who also gained a Pro Bowl slot last year as an alternate, thanks to his ability to catch. Back in 2015, Patriots coach Bill Belichick labeled Gronkowski and former Giants tough guy Mark Bavaro as the best run-blockers he had ever coached. And Gronkowski demonstrated his affinity for the job. "I love run-blocking to get the running backs [going]," he says. "It's just as good a feeling as like catching a touchdown, making a big play in the run game."

According to Embree, all tight ends should all be able to block.

"Eighty percent of blocking is attitude," he says. "If you want to, we can teach you. You don't have to be an embarrassment in that area. It drives me crazy."

But not every tight end who enters the league has that desire. Many of them have come from college schemes that never required them to get into a three-point stance, much less block opponents with any kind of regularity. When these tight ends arrive in the NFL, they force teams to compromise. "The reality is that you have to figure out what a guy can do and take advantage of it," the NFL team executive says.

One of the ways teams try to gain that edge is to use three-by-one formations with three receivers on one side and a tight end on the other. This gives the QB a clue about the defense he is facing on a play but also creates a situation where the tight end could be in man coverage, thanks to a high safety's desire to protect against trouble on the side of the field with three targets. Before, that meant the passer knew he had a last resort. Now, that tight end could be the primary receiver.

And if that man is Kelce or Kittle or Waller or Ertz — among others — the defense could be in big trouble. The Bengals used Tyler Eifert like that during his seven years with the team. (In late March, he signed a two-year deal with Jacksonville.) Though he isn't known for his blocking, Eifert is a solid receiver and can force defenses to play more nickel when he is on the field. That gave the Bengals plenty of options.

"If they are in nickel, we could find runs that work against that," Callahan says. "If they stay in base defense, with a heavier front, we could get the tight end on linebackers and can exploit that."

A single tight end can influence a defense. But these days, using three of them can give an offense flexibility that can lead to significant production and success. That's a departure from even a decade ago, when loading up at that position meant one thing: a run play was coming. Last year, in part because of a lack of outside receiving talent, the Raiders employed "13" personnel — one wideout and three tight ends with one back — quite often. Although not the ideal approach to gaining yards, coach Jon Gruden used it to help Oakland finish 11th in total offense, without a wideout who caught 50 passes. Thanks to Waller, who grabbed 90 aerials and averaged 12.7 yards per reception, along with Derek Carrier and Foster Moreau, the Raiders were able to put defenses in some tough spots, with the ability to run out of the heavy formations while also using the tight ends' sure hands to create some interesting passing-game matchups.

The Eagles used a lot of 13 personnel en route to a victory in Super Bowl LII. Ertz, Burton and Brent Celek were often on the field together because Philadelphia was not blessed with a surfeit of outside receiving talent. That year, Ertz led the team with 74 receptions and scored eight times. While he will never be a consistent downfield threat, he is hardly the prototypical safety valve tight end, either.

Embree reports that more advanced pass route concepts are allowing tight ends to be more fully involved in the offense and even letting them head upfield more often. Of course, since they are also used in short-yardage settings thanks to their proximity to the QB, their yards per catch will never be as robust as that of wide receivers, who benefit from schemes designed to get them

Gronkowski: Jamie Squire/Getty Images; Kittle, Kelce: Michael Reaves/Getty Images

moving in space. But thanks to tight ends' ever-improving ball skills, quarterbacks are treating them more like wideouts than ever before.

Take the back-shoulder catch. It was created to help wideouts shake free from tight coverage by stopping short and turning away from the field to corral a pass. It has become so popular that teams have "red lines" on their practice fields, six to seven yards in from the sideline to keep wideouts a bit closer to the hashmark and to give quarterbacks enough room to execute back-shoulder throws. But in three-by-one sets, when tight ends head up the seam, QBs are doing something similar with them.

"In the old days of the NFL, a quarterback was taught that if a tight end was covered, he was to go to the next receiver in the progression," the NFL exec says. "Now, he looks to see if the defender's back is turned, and he'll throw to the [tight end's] helmet."

And there's a good chance he will catch it. The old days of sticking the ball between a tight end's numbers to guarantee a catch have been replaced by players with an expanded catch radius who have the hands to go get throws that aren't perfect.

"They are like big receivers who can extend and turn and go over people," Callahan says. "[New Orleans'] Jared Cook is so big that he's like a power forward. You're trying to cover him with a 6'0" defensive back? You have no shot."

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When Kirk Ferentz and his assistants were recruiting T.J. Hockenson and trying to figure out if he could fit in an Iowa offensive system that requires a lot of work from its tight ends, they spent a lot of time in gyms, watching the roundball bounce.

"He was probably a better basketball player than football player," Ferentz says.

Part of the challenge for the Hawkeye staff when it comes to recruiting tight ends is that it is largely a developmental position in the program. But the hard work put in by coaches and players definitely pays dividends. Eleven former Hawkeye tight ends during Ferentz's tenure have been drafted by NFL teams. Although Hockenson was a first-team all-state choice on the gridiron and in 2019 would be chosen eighth overall in the NFL Draft, he still had to redshirt when he arrived in Iowa City.

"Typically, there is a lot of projection in the recruiting aspect for this position," Ferentz says.

The Hawkeyes are used to looking ahead, simply because the state of Iowa isn't loaded with five-star prospects. But the tight end spot requires an even clearer crystal ball, due to one big question Ferentz asks of those who want to play the position in Iowa City: "Will they block anyone?" Hockenson, who ended up playing two seasons for the Hawkeyes before declaring for the draft, arrived on campus with a pair of great hands and very little experience trying to get in the way of enemy defenders.

"When he came to camp, he wasn't a very good blocker," Ferentz says. "But he tried and had enough toughness and 'want to' that we thought he could do it. As long as you have those attributes, you can get it done."

In 2018, Hockenson and Noah Fant combined for 88 receptions and 13 scores for a 9–4 Hawkeyes team. Both left early for the NFL, a good move since the Lions chose Hockenson eighth, and Fant went 20th to Denver. They joined a parade of Iowa alumni at the position that includes Dallas Clark, who caught 505 passes during his 11-year career (including 100 in 2009), Tony Moeaki, Scott Chandler and C.J. Fiedorowicz. Oh, yeah, the Kittle guy, too.

But not even Ferentz could have imagined Kittle would become the player he is today. Kittle's father, Bruce, was coached by Ferentz at Iowa, and his mother, Jan, was a standout basketball player at Drake. "She was the athlete," Ferentz says. And Kittle's career in Iowa City was rather nondescript. He battled injuries during his first two years on campus and caught a total of 48 passes during his four seasons, but he did average 15.4 yards per reception. Despite Kittle's performance in San Francisco, it makes sense the Niners waited until the fifth round to choose him.

"I never would have projected him as one of the marquee players in the league, but now I wish I was that smart," Ferentz says.

Ferentz and his staff are plenty sharp when it comes to creating pro-ready tight ends. And though he prefers the classic versions who line up next to the tackle and can block and catch, he understands that not everyone can do it all.

Creating a TE in a lab? You could do worse than combine the attributes of Super Bowl TEs Kittle and Kelce.

Leading the Way

Five TEs led their teams in receptions last season, including both Super Bowl teams.

PLAYER	TEAM	RECEPTIONS
Travis Kelce	Chiefs*	97
Darren Waller	Raiders	90
Zach Ertz	Eagles*	88
George Kittle	49ers*	85
Mark Andrews	Ravens*	64

*Made playoffs

"Some guys are better suited for the traditional tight end position, and other guys can be flexed off the ball," Ferentz says. "Other guys can play both ways, but that's rare."

NFL teams still want tight ends who can do both, but they understand that the modern college game doesn't include too many programs like Iowa, which wants its guys to catch passes and block. So, they adapt and compromise. They'll find players with ball skills and the size and speed to create mismatches and work to use them to maximize their production. If that means using people who play more like big wideouts than conventional tight ends, so be it.

"Coordinators say, 'A tight end does this best,' so they feature him in that area," Schottenheimer says. "They can live with deficiencies in other areas."

It's not a bad trade-off.

Q&A WITH CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY

BY JOE MENZER

The Carolina Panthers made Christian McCaffrey the highest-paid running back in NFL history during the offseason, signing him to a four-year, $64 million contract that averages out to $16 million per season.

It can be argued that no one deserves it more. The eighth overall pick in the 2017 draft, McCaffrey is coming off back-to-back 1,000-yard rushing seasons and has set a record for most pass receptions by a running back in each of the last two seasons, topping more than 100 catches both times. Last year, McCaffrey amassed nearly 2,400 yards combined rushing and receiving and 19 total touchdowns.

He talked about his new contract, new Carolina coach Matt Rhule, new offensive coordinator Joe Brady and much, much more in a question-and-answer session with the media after signing his record-breaking deal.

How did you handle the quarantine during the COVID-19 pandemic, and how much will the "virtual offseason" impact your approach to this season?

I think the biggest thing is you just have to adapt to the circumstances. Everybody in the league is going through the same thing. However we prepare the best is how we're going to be. We can't start making excuses for ourselves just because we're talking over a camera (with teammates and coaches). We can still train. We can follow all the workouts, take care of our bodies and be detailed in our playbook.

What is your reaction to the suggestion that this is a rebuilding year for the Panthers after they released quarterback Cam Newton and tight end Greg Olsen, and linebacker Luke Kuechly unexpectedly and suddenly retired?

I think when you start talking about rebuilding something, you start one (thing) at a time. And that approach hasn't changed. It's about taking each day and maximizing your opportunities one day at a time. You are one of 53, and your job is to go out there and be the best that you can be. If that means going outside and running routes for the install that day, or spending some extra film time, some extra meeting time, that's what you need to do. The one good thing is that the (offseason) meetings are recorded, so you can go back and watch them a hundred times. So there are some advantages to all this stuff, and I think it's important that we seek those out and take full advantage of the little perks in the system that we can.

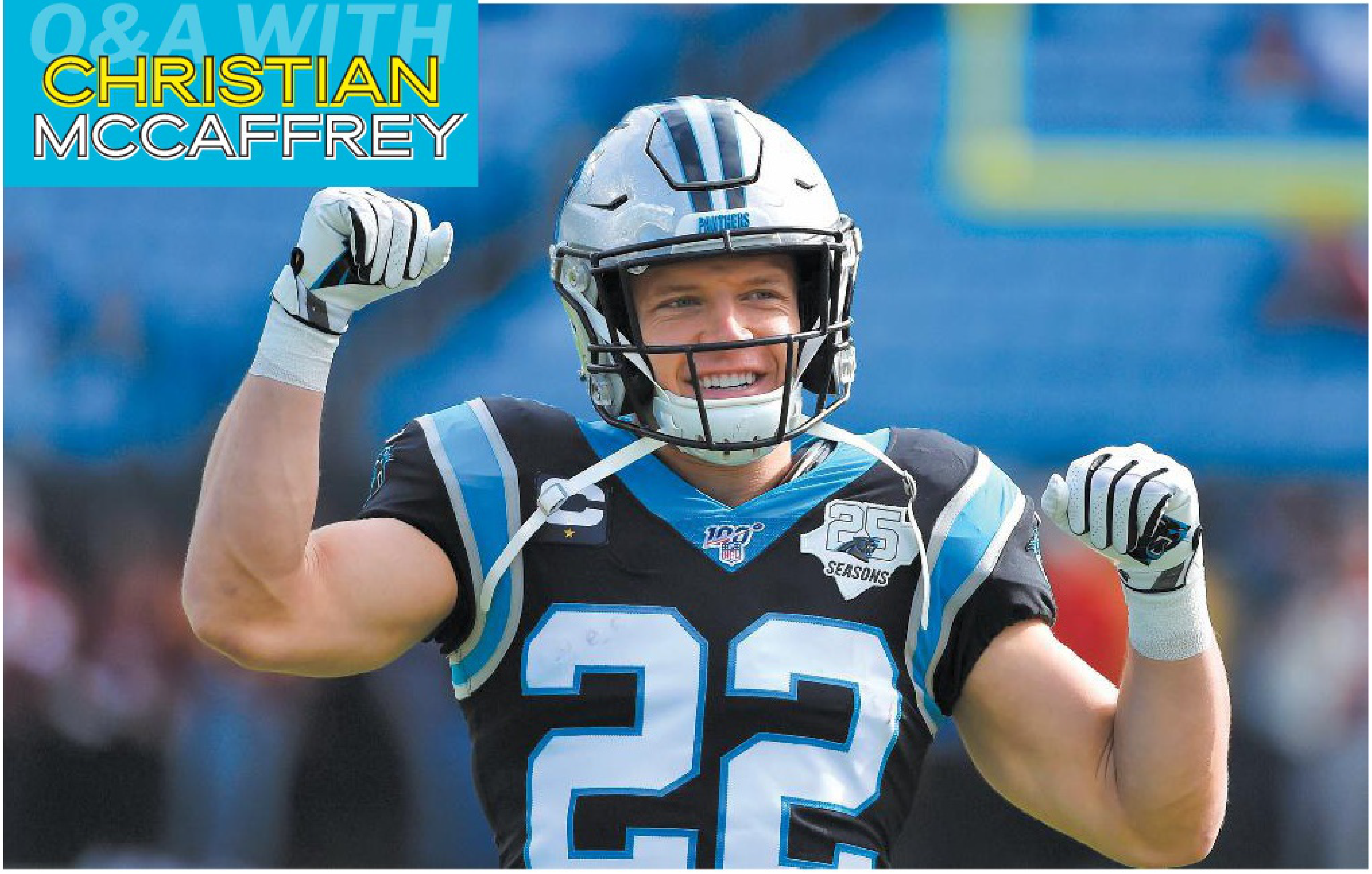
When you saw what was happening with Cam being released, Greg leaving and Luke retiring, did you have any reservations about signing a long-term deal with the Panthers?

I never focused on signing somewhere else. That never occurred to me. I want to be in Carolina for my whole career. It never really hit me until we started negotiating that it was a real thing. I always knew about it, but when you start negotiating it becomes real. I bought a place in Charlotte. I love the Carolinas more than anything in the world. It's somewhere that I would like to call home forever. I didn't want to leave, to be honest. … And they didn't want me to leave, either. Throughout the whole thing, there was nothing but respect. I've been very fortunate to play for a lot of people who have shown nothing but respect for me — and I'm going to give my all back.

> ***"I'm on a team whose ownership and front office believe in me the way I believe in myself. And to me, that means a lot — knowing that I get to go to work every day and be the best me, and be myself."***

AP Photo/Tony Avelar

Q&A WITH CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY



You know, there is change that goes on all the time in the NFL. You look around the league and what's happening. You look at some of the great players of all time and the teams that they've gone to. You can stay close friends with people and you can build great relationships, but if you stay attached, it's tough. Because it's such a revolving door. It's such a business — and as much as I love everybody that I've played with, I understand that it's a business. I might be one of the guys one day. Hopefully not. But for me, I just try to focus every day on the teammates that I have — and right now we've got some great ones. I'm excited to play with a new bunch, with a new energy, and see where we can take it.

With all those guys gone now, will you take a more vocal leadership role? And while they were here, did you kind of feel like you had to wait your turn a little for this moment?

I think when you have the opportunity to play with great players like Cam and like Luke and like Greg, Thomas Davis, Julius Peppers, all those guys … I think the biggest thing you can do is learn from them. See how they approach things and take the good things from them, and make them into your own formula. That's what I've really tried to do, being really fortunate enough to play with all of those guys. Will I take a more vocal role? I don't think there has been any weight on me to take more of a vocal role. I think there are multiple ways to lead. When you're seen as one of the leaders on the team, you have to be vocal, and I will be. But we have some other great leaders on this team, too, and some great coaches. So I think it's important that everyone looks at himself as someone who can lead and who can follow, and we can collectively go into games as a team.

Matt Rhule has said you are the guy he wants to build around. What are your first impressions of Coach Rhule, and how does it feel to now be the face of the Panthers franchise?

It means a lot. I hope I can just continue to do everything I've done, and I know I will. To hear that from Coach Rhule means a lot, too. It shows that he has faith in me, and that the front office has faith in me. I really appreciate that. Once again, right now there is so much going on. Now that all the contract stuff is over with, I'm solely focused on football. I can't express my excitement enough about being able to continue in Carolina and play for a great team with a great coach and great teammates.

Coach Rhule has brought a lot of enthusiasm and has been great from Day One. … I know myself and a lot of others are very excited to play for him.

What are your impressions of new offensive coordinator Joe Brady, who comes to Carolina after a record-setting season that helped produce a national championship for LSU?

Yeah, Coach Brady's been great. You can definitely tell he's such a unique mind when it comes to offensive football. He puts his players in the best positions he can to succeed. That's what he did at LSU, so I'm really excited to play for him and work with him.

Is the offense going to be significantly different from what it was before?

It's a whole new system. But everybody is on the same page, and everybody is learning it at the same time, so that's good.

Much has been made of the fact that your new deal makes you the highest-paid running back in NFL history. What is the significance of that to you?

Well, it means a lot. I think more than the money it just shows that the Panthers believe in me. And I really appreciate that. I'm on a team whose ownership and front office believe in me the way I believe in myself. And to me, that means a lot —

Left: AP Photo/Mike McCarn; Culpo: Perry Knotts via AP; Kuechly: Grant Halverson/Getty Images

knowing that I get to go to work every day and be the best me, and be myself. I feel very fortunate and very blessed and excited to be able to continue to play ball with the Panthers.

Not having that face time to bond with new teammates, did you see reaching out to many of them as a priority?

It's important to have as much fellowship as we can, even when we can't be together (such as during the spring's OTAs because of the COVID-19 pandemic). OTAs are always such a great time to get to know each other, not only on the field but to go and do things together outside of the facility. We have so many new guys on our team that I think it's important for the rest of us to step up. You need to know each other. You need to know the guy that's going to be playing next to you when you go in on Sundays. Building that bond is really important early on.

Could you revisit your 2017 draft process when the Panthers selected you?

Coach (Ron) Rivera and Skip (Jim Skipper), my running backs coach (his first two seasons at Carolina), they met with me after my Pro Day at Stanford. I got a great feeling about it then. But I never predicted anything. I didn't know if I was going to go top 10 or in the second round. All I tried to do was get ready for the season. So when draft day came, I honestly didn't really know who was going to take me. That's part of the reason I didn't go to the draft — because I didn't want to be sitting there for the first round and not get picked. So I stayed home with my family, and it ended up being one of the best days ever. All my childhood friends came. I got the call at 8 (p.m.). It seemed it took forever, but Coach Rivera called and I saw the 704 (area code) number. I got really excited and knew then I was going to be a Panther. It was one of the best days of my life.

After the disappointing end to last season, what has this offseason been like?

I've definitely moved on from last season. We have such a new team and such a new energy in the building — well, I guess on the computer screen and not actually in the building. But it's been a breath of fresh air. Everybody is starting from scratch, and I think that's important, that there is not one person who is exempt from that. We've got guys like (new quarterback) Teddy (Bridgewater) coming along. We've got some unbelievable players coming along, bringing that new energy. Obviously Coach Rhule has done a great job so far, and I think everybody is kind of getting a feel for who he is and is very excited to play for him.

What will it be like if you have to play in empty stadiums?

A busy offseason for Run CMC included a mega-deal and a budding romance with former Miss Universe Olivia Culpo.

Well, if that's what we have to do, that's what we have to do. I do think that it's important that when we get to practice, we practice at full speed. Because it's going to be like a bunch of dual-team practices, just played in a stadium. While there may not be fans, we do know millions of people will be watching. We never worry about the crowd anyway. At the end of the day, it's about going out there and executing and winning football games. So once again, if that's the case, we'll do it.

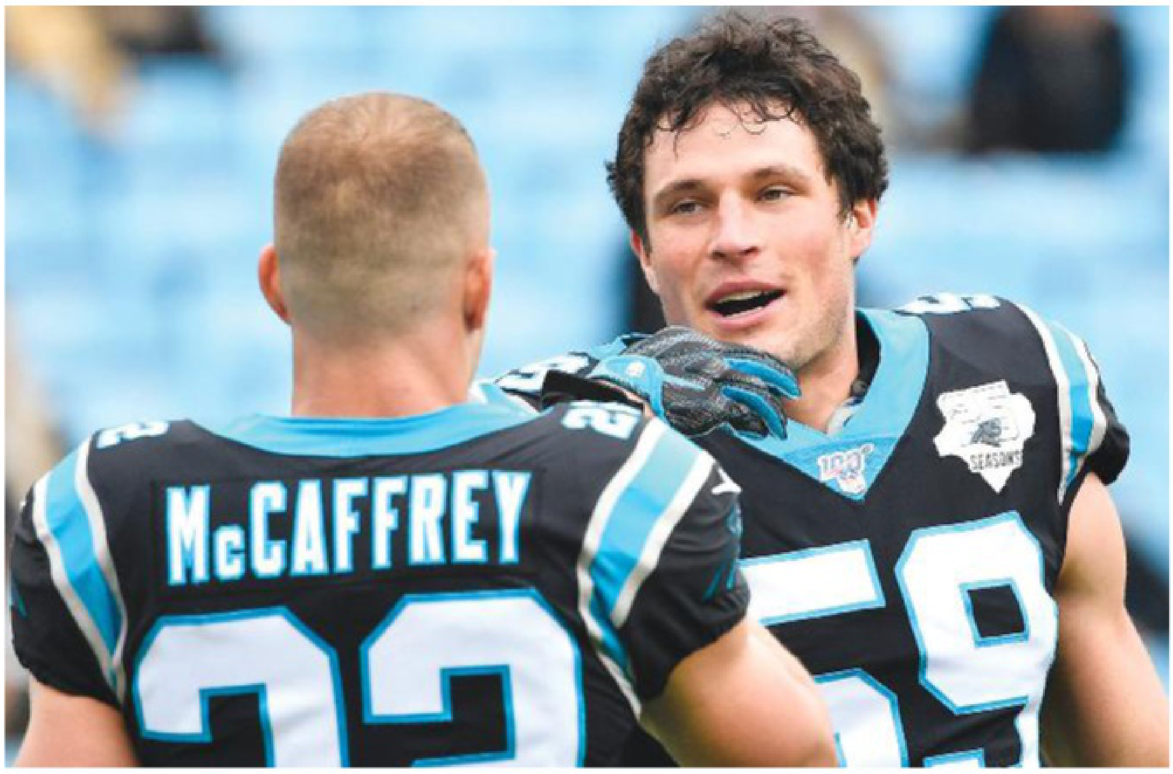
What has your setup been as you worked from home because of the pandemic?

I'm very fortunate with the setup that I have. I have everything I need to work out in. We have a gym here. We went and got some equipment when this first started, just in case. I've got my little brothers who can throw to me. [Dylan is a quarterback at Michigan and Luke, his youngest brother, is a quarterback at Nebraska.] So I've been very fortunate. I've been treating this like the OTAs.

We're in my parents' house right now, and then we have an apartment kind of down the way. It just depends on the day and what we're feeling, but it's nice to be able to have a little change of scenery. Being all together with my family during this time, I think it's definitely reminded us all of how important it is being with your loved ones and not taking anything for granted.

With the many millions that you just made, is there a luxury purchase that you've made?

I haven't thought about any purchases yet. Right now, I feel like I should just save up at this time.



The retirement of Luke Kuechly and the offseason departures of Cam Newton and Greg Olsen leave the Panthers in McCaffrey's capable hands from a leadership standpoint.

Q&A with Jimmy Johnson

BY CHAREAN WILLIAMS

Jimmy Johnson didn't know if Pro Football Hall of Fame selectors would hold his short career against him. Johnson coached in the NFL only nine seasons, and before Johnson's selection, Guy Chamberlin was the only coach with a career shorter than 10 seasons to have a bust in Canton.

That's why, when Hall of Fame President David Baker showed up on the FOX set to deliver the news in January, Johnson's emotions — and his asthma — got the best of him.

"He built a team that won three Super Bowls in four years after going 1–15 his first year," Hall of Fame receiver Michael Irvin said. "When you talk about turnaround in the time span he did it, there's no doubt he belongs in the Hall of Fame."

Johnson coached nine seasons and won 80 regular-season games and two Super Bowl titles, and he now will join 15 of his draft choices in the Hall of Fame. The Cowboys went 36–12 in Johnson's final three seasons in Dallas. They won back-to-back Super Bowls and might have won an unprecedented third consecutive title had Johnson and Jerry Jones not parted ways before the 1994 season.

"I had done what I could do," says Johnson, who spent his final four seasons coaching the Dolphins. "I was very happy with what I had accomplished, and I was leaving them in great shape. It wasn't any negative thing. It wasn't any hard feelings. I didn't realize until years later when Troy [Aikman] told me, 'You just don't know how upset we were that you left.' It was almost like they were mad at me. He said, 'You cheated us out of something special.' I didn't look at it that way. People have put it as me vs. Jerry [Jones]. It wasn't as much me vs. Jerry as it was me wanting to come back to South Florida."

Johnson now has his fishing boat, Three Rings, at his retirement home in South Florida; he has his second career as an NFL studio analyst for FOX; and he soon will have his bust in Canton. What else could a retired football coach want?

Some quarterback will have to fill Tom Brady's shoes in New England, and at some point, a coach will have to replace Bill Belichick. You've replaced some legends [Tom Landry in Dallas and Don Shula in Miami]. What advice would you give to someone facing that pressure of replacing a legend?

The first thing is, I didn't want to disrespect anybody that I followed. By the same token, I had complete confidence in my abilities. I just felt like if people would be patient that we'd be successful, and in my particular case, most of the time some of the people were ready for a change. I mean, Tom Landry was one of the greatest coaches of all time, and yet, they had gone seasons without winning. I think that made it a little easier in the transition. Now, me going 1–15 the first year didn't help. But at times people take quality people for granted. Sometimes they think the grass is greener. Even with Tom Brady, I'm sure there are some Patriots fans who are saying, "Hey, it's time for a change." They've just gotten so spoiled with his success. But the number one bit of advice I would give anyone is, make sure you don't disrespect who you've replaced. If you say, "OK, we're going to make a change. We're going to do it this way." Well, just by saying that, you're indicating that maybe what they did wasn't good. You've got to really walk a tight line there by not disrespecting the people you're replacing.

Johnson's arrival in Dallas put him on a path that ended in Canton.

Of all your championships as a player and as a coach, which one is most meaningful to you?

This is the hard one. We [the Miami Hurricanes] went undefeated in the regular season [in 1986] and lost to Penn State in the Fiesta Bowl. It was the most devastating loss I ever had. In my mind, we had one of the greatest teams to ever play. That was such a disappointment, even though we were 11–1. It was such a disappointing finish that going undefeated and winning the national championship the next year just made it that much more rewarding. So it's hard to top that. But by the same token, going from 1–15 [in 1989 in Dallas] and winning the Super Bowl [in 1992], it's hard to top that. The second Super Bowl was more of a relief than it was a joy, because people expected it.

How would your best University of Miami team have done against your worst NFL team?

Well, it's crazy to say, but I think my University of Miami team

Jones: AP Photo/NFL Photos; Right: David Santiago/Miami Herald via AP

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This FOX NFL Sunday cast photo now includes three NFL Hall of Famers —Johnson, Howie Long and Terry Bradshaw — in addition to Curt Menefee and Jay Glazer.

would have beaten my first Dallas Cowboys team. We had more top-line players on our Miami team than what Dallas had on that 1–15 team.

Who was your favorite draft pick of all time?

This is another hard one. Obviously, you've got to start with Troy [Aikman], because people have selective amnesia. There were people even in the Cowboys organization who were pushing for me to take Tony Mandarich. But Troy has to be one. Then, trading up to get Emmitt [Smith]. But both of those are first-round picks. So it should be good. Getting Jason Taylor, defensive MVP, Hall of Famer, in the third round was a great pick. Getting Zach Thomas, who should be in the Hall of Fame, with a fifth-rounder was a great pick. Erik Williams with a third-round pick. Larry Brown with a 12th-round pick. Leon Lett with a seventh-round pick. So it's hard. It depends on what round. You say, "OK, which one was the best in the first round; which one was the best in the second round. …" It's all relative because of where we got them.

In your first job at Louisiana Tech, you had Phil Robertson of "Duck Dynasty" at quarterback, and you recruited Terry Bradshaw. What do you remember about those guys back then?

Well, of course, I didn't spend much time with Terry, and it was so long ago. That was my first coaching job. I barely got to know the players. I was scared to death, because I had never coached before. I was more concentrating on what I had to do than getting to know the players.

You gave Ed Orgeron his first on-field coaching job at the University of Miami. What did you see in Coach O then? Are you surprised by the level of success he's achieved?

Ed was a hard-working, physical, nuts-and-bolts type of guy. I think the biggest part of his success is how well he relates to people. He's gone through some tough times after I left Miami, and he's overcome those tough times. I think that makes him relate so much better to the mothers and the daddies and the recruits. Players play hard for him. They love him, and he's a great recruiter. I'm not surprised at the success that he's had.

What kind of teammate was Jerry Jones when you played together at Arkansas? Do you have any fun off-the-field stories from college?

Jerry was always something of a mover-and-shaker kind of guy. I more kept to myself. But I remember we lived in Wilson Sharp House. I don't know if Jerry had money, but he at least looked like he had some money. Up on the hill was where the dining hall was and there was a little asphalt walkway, just barely four or five feet wide for people to walk up the hill to the dining room. I can see in my mind right now a big white Cadillac Eldorado coming down that walkway with Jerry behind the wheel. He was always the center of attention and had the fun going.

You were a high school classmate of Janis Joplin in Port Arthur, Texas. What was it like to be in your early 20s and see her rise to fame?

I didn't even realize she was as famous as what she was until after I went to college. I knew that she went across the river over into Lake Charles and over into Louisiana, and she would do some singing. I never heard her sing. I just knew she wore the black leotards and smoked marijuana. So we always gave her a hard time. Her sister wrote a book and said I bullied her. I didn't really bully her. We were just having fun. I gave her the nickname "Beat Weeds."

What is it about ex-Cowboys being successful broadcasters? You, Troy Aikman, Daryl Johnston, Jason Witten, Deion Sanders, Michael Irvin, Tony Romo, Dandy Don Meredith, the list goes on and on...

I think having experience with the media helps without question. People were surprised when I got into TV. I told them, I had a coach's show the whole time I was a head coach, back at Oklahoma State, Miami. In fact, [attorney and close friend Nick] Christin and I produced our show at the University of

FOX: Andy Kropa/Invision/AP; Aikman: AP Photo/Charles Krupa

Miami, and we produced the show with the Cowboys. So I had experience with it. You look at the success of some of the players, I think when they are exposed to that kind of visibility and that kind of media attention from Day One, I think that prepares them to go into the booth.

Jon Gruden gave up a cush job in the TV booth to go back into coaching. Do you think he's crazy?

Ten million a year isn't so crazy. I think coaches, a lot of coaches, have it in their blood such that it's hard for them to do anything else. When they leave, they really miss it. I was fortunate enough that when I left, I got in with FOX with people that I really liked. Terry Bradshaw is one of my best friends. Howie [Long] and [Michael] Strahan, we group text back and forth. Jay Glazer and Curt Menefee, they're the worst [about texting]. We'll text back and forth almost daily. We're such good friends. I think that helped me stay away from it.

How do you stay in touch with the game from afar?

Because of these dogs, I get up earlier now than I used to. I used to get up about 5. Now, I get up about 4:30. I'm on the computer for a couple of hours every morning. Of course, I watch all the sports shows in the morning, and when I finish the day, I can get back on the sofa, and I'll watch a couple of more hours of sports shows that afternoon. So that's a daily process for me. You add to that occasional phone call to [Bill] Belichick or whoever. I talked to Jason Garrett not too long ago. When you add that into it, I stay on top of the game. Anytime that something is happening with the NFL or college, like the University of Miami coaching staff has come down here a couple of times. I've had a bunch of college coaches and NFL coaches here. I've talked to the Dolphins as a staff a couple of times. They brought me up there. I stay in contact with it.

This offseason, we've seen so much movement with players changing teams from Tom Brady to Philip Rivers to DeAndre Hopkins to Jason Witten to Jameis Winston and Cam Newton. Have we ever seen anything like this?

No, not with the big-name guys, especially the quarterbacks. The changes at quarterback are really something. I think all these changes just put a premium on coaching. Back in the old days, you put together a great team, and they stayed together for 10 years. Nowadays, with free agency and with the salary cap and with roster limits, you have a different team every year. So it puts a premium on the real great teachers as coaches.

When you came in, the NFL wasn't a year-round job. Does this offseason, because of COVID-19, remind you somewhat of that?

That's how it was prior to 1989. There were only a couple of teams in the league that had structured offseason programs. The old-time NFL was when that last game was over with, the players headed out, and you had them for one little minicamp. The Cowboys coaches didn't even run the minicamp. The strength coach did. But you didn't even see them again until training camp. Most of these guys today stay in shape. Most of them, you're talking about so much money that they know they better be in shape. They're fighting for their jobs. I don't think players being in football shape is a concern. I do think there is a premium on coaches who are great teachers, because you have to have young players participate somewhere, and you've got new players with free agency. You don't have the luxury of working with them all spring and teaching them the playbook and teaching them your system. So you've got to get them up to speed in a hurry. I think it puts even more of a premium on coaches who are great teachers.

Your former FOX teammate, Rob Gronkowski, has come out of retirement to join Tom Brady in Tampa Bay. How do you think Gronk will do?

I think he'll be outstanding, especially with Tom. I remember I watched a Patriots practice one day, and Bill had me talk to the team. Brady and Gronkowski spent almost a full period, 25 minutes, just the two of them, working on goal-line passes. Just the two of them. They had such a great feel for what Gronk was going to do. Tom could anticipate it before he ever made the move. They have such great chemistry. Then, Tom has such confidence in Gronk. Gronk is so big. He's going to be able to muscle his way to the ball, and nobody's going to be able to get above him. I think that they'll be successful, because they have such a great chemistry together.

The Dolphins haven't won a playoff game since Dec. 30, 2000. Do you see hope for them now with Tua Tagovailoa and what they've done this offseason?

The draft is always the key. Getting picks is one thing, but you've got to pick the right players. Now, I do like Brian Flores. I thought he did a great job last year. They finished strong. I think he's a really outstanding coach. He's an outstanding fundamentals coach. That comes from the Belichick background. I like what he's doing, but they've got to get some more talent.

They shared the ultimate on-field success; now, Troy Aikman will share in Johnson's greatest honor by helping induct him into the Hall of Fame.

You chose to have two presenters at your Hall of Fame ceremony, which is unprecedented. Why did you choose both Terry Bradshaw and Troy Aikman to be on hand?

Well, Troy and I have become very close, closer now than what we were when he played. I have such great respect for him, and, of course, he was a big part of my success. Terry and I are so close that I wanted him to be part of it as well. Really, the other thoughts were my two sons; maybe it's the TV in me, but I think fans would rather see Troy and Terry than my sons. It's because I'm so close to both of them, and I've got such great respect for both them. I think it's good for the Hall of Fame.

2020 Draft Recap

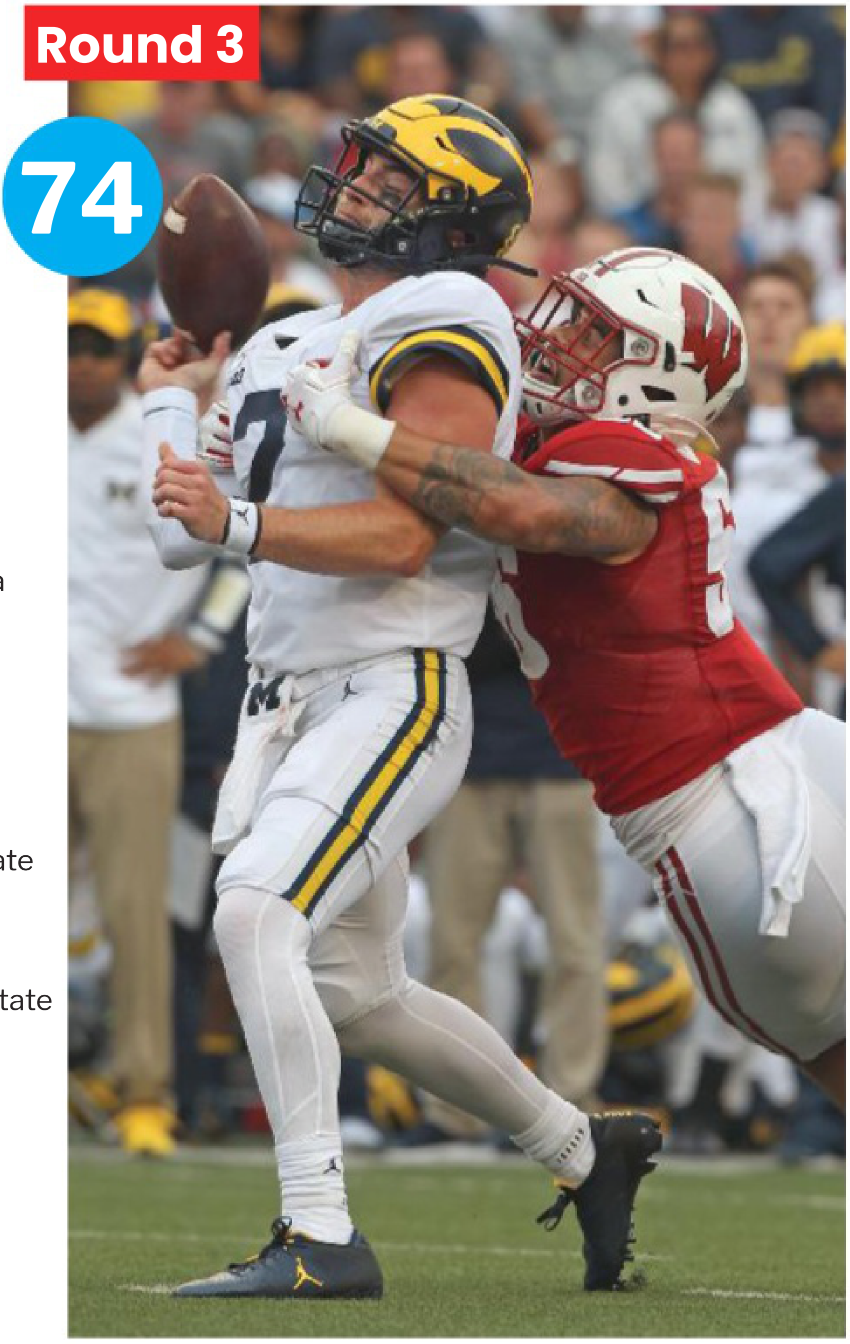
1.	Bengals	**Joe Burrow**	QB	LSU
2.	Redskins	**Chase Young**	DE	Ohio State
3.	Lions	**Jeff Okudah**	CB	Ohio State
4.	Giants	**Andrew Thomas**	T	Georgia
5.	Dolphins	**Tua Tagovailoa**	QB	Alabama
6.	Chargers	**Justin Herbert**	QB	Oregon
7.	Panthers	**Derrick Brown**	DT	Auburn
8.	Cardinals	**Isaiah Simmons**	LB	Clemson
9.	Jaguars	**C.J. Henderson**	CB	Florida
10.	Browns	**Jedrick Wills Jr.**	T	Alabama
11.	Jets	**Mekhi Becton**	T	Louisville
12.	Raiders	**Henry Ruggs III**	WR	Alabama
13.	Buccaneers	**Tristan Wirfs**	T	Iowa
14.	49ers	**Javon Kinlaw**	DT	South Carolina
15.	Broncos	**Jerry Jeudy**	WR	Alabama
16.	Falcons	**A.J. Terrell**	CB	Clemson
17.	Cowboys	**CeeDee Lamb**	WR	Oklahoma
18.	Dolphins	**Austin Jackson**	T	USC
19.	Raiders	**Damon Arnette**	CB	Ohio State
20.	Jaguars	**K'Lavon Chaisson**	Edge	LSU
21.	Eagles	**Jalen Reagor**	WR	TCU
22.	Vikings	**Justin Jefferson**	WR	LSU
23.	Chargers	**Kenneth Murray**	LB	Oklahoma
24.	Saints	**Cesar Ruiz**	C	Michigan
25.	49ers	**Brandon Aiyuk**	WR	Arizona State
26.	Packers	**Jordan Love**	QB	Utah State
27.	Seahawks	**Jordyn Brooks**	LB	Texas Tech
28.	Ravens	**Patrick Queen**	LB	LSU
29.	Titans	**Isaiah Wilson**	T	Georgia
30.	Dolphins	**Noah Igbinoghene**	CB	Auburn
31.	Vikings	**Jeff Gladney**	CB	TCU
32.	Chiefs	**Clyde Edwards-Helaire**	RB	LSU

33.	Bengals	**Tee Higgins**	WR	Clemson
34.	Colts	**Michael Pittman Jr.**	WR	USC
35.	Lions	**D'Andre Swift**	RB	Georgia
36.	Giants	**Xavier McKinney**	S	Alabama
37.	Patriots	**Kyle Dugger**	S	Lenoir-Rhyne
38.	Panthers	**Yetur Gross-Matos**	Edge	Penn State
39.	Dolphins	**Robert Hunt**	T	Louisiana
40.	Texans	**Ross Blacklock**	DT	TCU
41.	Colts	**Jonathan Taylor**	RB	Wisconsin
42.	Jaguars	**Laviska Shenault Jr.**	WR	Colorado
43.	Bears	**Cole Kmet**	TE	Notre Dame
44.	Browns	**Grant Delpit**	S	LSU
45.	Buccaneers	**Antoine Winfield Jr.**	S	Minnesota
46.	Broncos	**KJ Hamler**	WR	Penn State
47.	Falcons	**Marlon Davidson**	Edge	Auburn
48.	Seahawks	**Darrell Taylor**	Edge	Tennessee
49.	Steelers	**Chase Claypool**	WR	Notre Dame
50.	Bears	**Jaylon Johnson**	CB	Utah
51.	Cowboys	**Trevon Diggs**	CB	Alabama
52.	Rams	**Cam Akers**	RB	Florida State
53.	Eagles	**Jalen Hurts**	QB	Oklahoma
54.	Bills	**A.J. Epenesa**	DE	Iowa
55.	Ravens	**J.K. Dobbins**	RB	Ohio State
56.	Dolphins	**Raekwon Davis**	DT	Alabama
57.	Rams	**Van Jefferson**	WR	Florida
58.	Vikings	**Ezra Cleveland**	T	Boise State
59.	Jets	**Denzel Mims**	WR	Baylor
60.	Patriots	**Josh Uche**	LB	Michigan
61.	Titans	**Kristian Fulton**	CB	LSU
62.	Packers	**AJ Dillon**	RB	Boston College
63.	Chiefs	**Willie Gay Jr.**	LB	Mississippi State
64.	Panthers	**Jeremy Chinn**	S	Southern Illinois

Burrow: AP; Swift: Paul Abell; Baun: Tim Clark; Simpson, Dantler: Harrison McClary

Round 3

65.	Bengals	**Logan Wilson**	LB	Wyoming
66.	Redskins	**Antonio Gibson**	WR	Memphis
67.	Lions	**Julian Okwara**	Edge	Notre Dame
68.	Jets	**Ashtyn Davis**	S	California
69.	Seahawks	**Damien Lewis**	G	LSU
70.	Dolphins	**Brandon Jones**	S	Texas
71.	Ravens	**Justin Madubuike**	DT	Texas A&M
72.	Cardinals	**Josh Jones**	T	Houston
73.	Jaguars	**DaVon Hamilton**	DT	Ohio State
74.	Saints	**Zack Baun**	LB	Wisconsin
75.	Lions	**Jonah Jackson**	G	Ohio State
76.	Buccaneers	**Ke'Shawn Vaughn**	RB	Vanderbilt
77.	Broncos	**Michael Ojemudia**	CB	Iowa
78.	Falcons	**Matt Hennessy**	C	Temple
79.	Jets	**Jabari Zuniga**	Edge	Florida
80.	Raiders	**Lynn Bowden Jr.**	WR	Kentucky
81.	Raiders	**Bryan Edwards**	WR	South Carolina
82.	Cowboys	**Neville Gallimore**	DT	Oklahoma
83.	Broncos	**Lloyd Cushenberry III**	C	LSU
84.	Rams	**Terrell Lewis**	Edge	Alabama
85.	Colts	**Julian Blackmon**	S	Utah
86.	Bills	**Zack Moss**	RB	Utah
87.	Patriots	**Anfernee Jennings**	Edge	Alabama
88.	Browns	**Jordan Elliott**	DT	Missouri
89.	Vikings	**Cameron Dantzler**	CB	Mississippi State
90.	Texans	**Jonathan Greenard**	Edge	Florida
91.	Patriots	**Devin Asiasi**	TE	UCLA
92.	Ravens	**Devin Duvernay**	WR	Texas
93.	Titans	**Darrynton Evans**	RB	Appalachian State
94.	Packers	**Josiah Deguara**	TE	Cincinnati
95.	Broncos	**McTelvin Agim**	DT	Arkansas
96.	Chiefs	**Lucas Niang**	T	TCU
97.	Browns	**Jacob Phillips**	LB	LSU
98.	Ravens	**Malik Harrison**	LB	Ohio State
99.	Giants	**Matt Peart**	T	Connecticut
100.	Raiders	**Tanner Muse**	S	Clemson
101.	Patriots	**Dalton Keene**	TE	Virginia Tech
102.	Steelers	**Alex Highsmith**	Edge	Charlotte

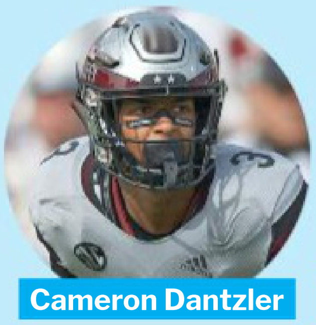


Logan Wilson

Ashtyn Davis

Zack Moss

Anfernee Jennings


Cameron Dantzler

Wilson: Wyoming Athletics; Davis: Peter Brouillet; Jennings: Paul Abell

Round 4

103.	Eagles	**Davion Taylor**	LB	Colorado
104.	Rams	**Terrell Burgess**	S	Utah
105.	Saints	**Adam Trautman**	TE	Dayton
106.	Ravens	**Tyre Phillips**	G	Mississippi State
107.	Bengals	**Akeem Davis-Gaither**	LB	Appalachian State
108.	Redskins	**Saahdiq Charles**	T	LSU
109.	Raiders	**John Simpson**	G	Clemson
110.	Giants	**Darnay Holmes**	CB	UCLA
111.	Dolphins	**Solomon Kindley**	G	Georgia
112.	Chargers	**Joshua Kelley**	RB	UCLA
113.	Panthers	**Troy Pride Jr.**	CB	Notre Dame
114.	Cardinals	**Leki Fotu**	DT	Utah
115.	Browns	**Harrison Bryant**	TE	FAU
116.	Jaguars	**Ben Bartch**	T	St. John's (Minn.)
117.	Vikings	**D.J. Wonnum**	Edge	South Carolina
118.	Broncos	**Albert Okwuegbunam**	TE	Missouri
119.	Falcons	**Mykal Walker**	LB	Fresno State
120.	Jets	**La'Mical Perine**	RB	Florida
121.	Lions	**Logan Stenberg**	G	Kentucky
122.	Colts	**Jacob Eason**	QB	Washington

123.	Cowboys	**Reggie Robinson II**	CB	Tulsa
124.	Steelers	**Anthony McFarland Jr.**	RB	Maryland
125.	Jets	**James Morgan**	QB	FIU
126.	Texans	**Charlie Heck**	T	North Carolina
127.	Eagles	**K'Von Wallace**	S	Clemson
128.	Bills	**Gabriel Davis**	WR	UCF
129.	Jets	**Cameron Clarke**	G	Charlotte
130.	Vikings	**James Lynch**	DE	Baylor
131.	Cardinals	**Rashard Lawrence**	DT	LSU
132.	Vikings	**Troy Dye**	LB	Oregon
133.	Seahawks	**Colby Parkinson**	TE	Stanford
134.	Falcons	**Jaylinn Hawkins**	S	California
135.	Steelers	**Kevin Dotson**	G	Louisiana
136.	Rams	**Brycen Hopkins**	TE	Purdue
137.	Jaguars	**Josiah Scott**	CB	Michigan State
138.	Chiefs	**L'Jarius Sneed**	S	Louisiana Tech

Round 5

139.	Raiders	**Amik Robertson**	CB	Louisiana Tech
140.	Jaguars	**Shaquille Quarterman**	LB	Miami (Fla.)
141.	Texans	**John Reid**	CB	Penn State
142.	Redskins	**Antonio Gandy-Golden**	WR	Liberty
143.	Ravens	**Ben Bredeson**	G	Michigan
144.	Seahawks	**DeeJay Dallas**	RB	Miami (Fla.)
145.	Eagles	**Jack Driscoll**	T	Auburn
146.	Cowboys	**Tyler Biadasz**	C	Wisconsin
147.	Bengals	**Khalid Kareem**	Edge	Notre Dame
148.	Seahawks	**Alton Robinson**	Edge	Syracuse
149.	Colts	**Danny Pinter**	G	Ball State
150.	Giants	**Shane Lemieux**	G	Oregon
151.	Chargers	**Joe Reed**	WR	Virginia
152.	Panthers	**Kenny Robinson**	S	West Virginia
153.	49ers	**Colton McKivitz**	T	West Virginia
154.	Dolphins	**Jason Strowbridge**	DE	North Carolina
155.	Bears	**Trevis Gipson**	DE	Tulsa
156.	Redskins	**Keith Ismael**	C	San Diego State
157.	Jaguars	**Daniel Thomas**	S	Auburn
158.	Jets	**Bryce Hall**	CB	Virginia
159.	Patriots	**Justin Rohrwasser**	K	Marshall
160.	Browns	**Nick Harris**	C	Washington
161.	Buccaneers	**Tyler Johnson**	WR	Minnesota
162.	Redskins	**Khaleke Hudson**	LB	Michigan
163.	Bears	**Kindle Vildor**	CB	Georgia Southern
164.	Dolphins	**Curtis Weaver**	Edge	Boise State
165.	Jaguars	**Collin Johnson**	WR	Texas
166.	Lions	**Quintez Cephus**	WR	Wisconsin
167.	Bills	**Jake Fromm**	QB	Georgia
168.	Eagles	**John Hightower**	WR	Boise State
169.	Vikings	**Harrison Hand**	CB	Temple
170.	Ravens	**Broderick Washington Jr.**	DT	Texas Tech
171.	Texans	**Isaiah Coulter**	WR	Rhode Island
172.	Lions	**Jason Huntley**	RB	New Mexico State
173.	Bears	**Darnell Mooney**	WR	Tulane

Round 6

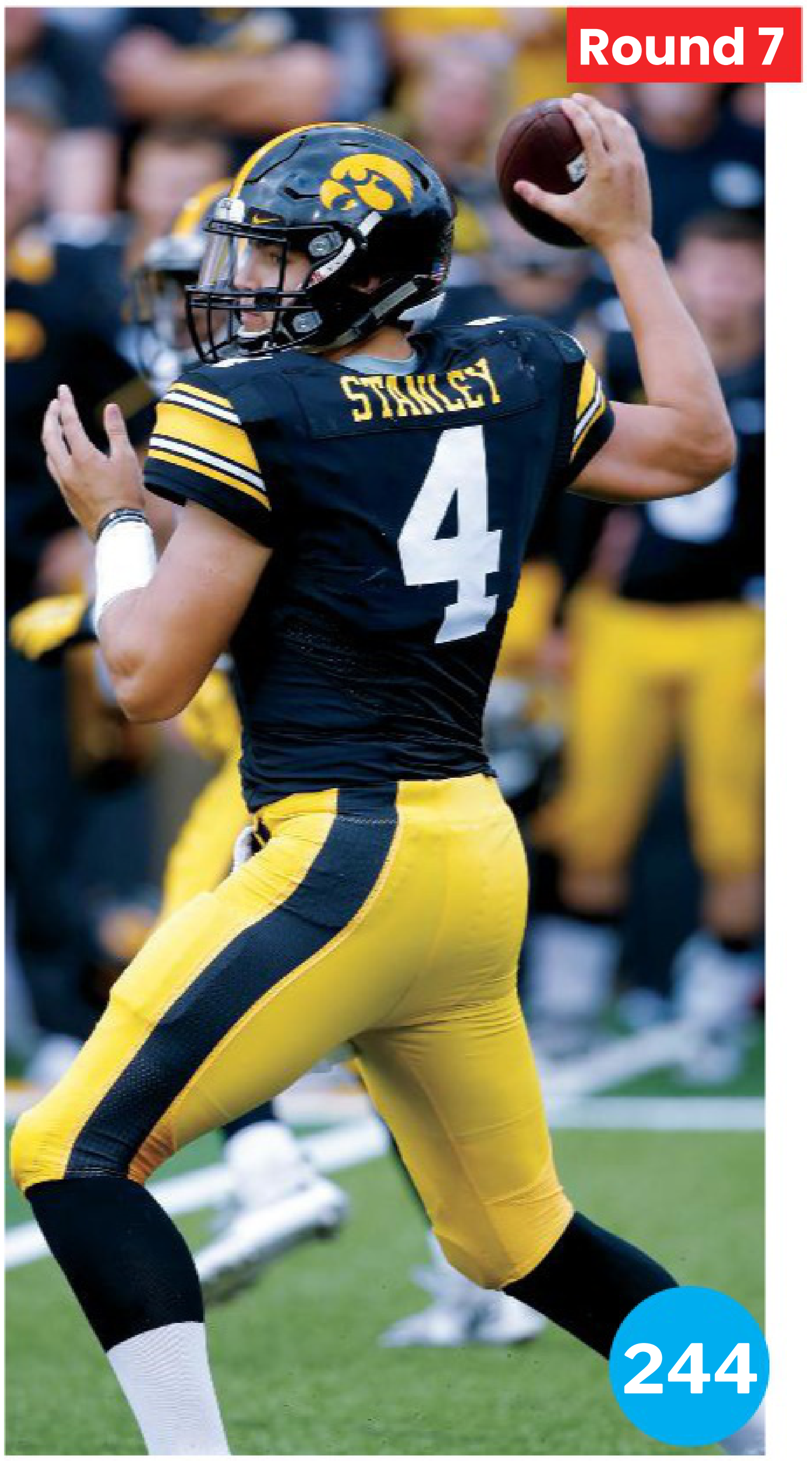
174.	Titans	**Larrell Murchison**	DT	NC State
175.	Packers	**Kamal Martin**	LB	Minnesota
176.	Vikings	**K.J. Osborn**	WR	Miami (Fla.)
177.	Chiefs	**Michael Danna**	Edge	Michigan
178.	Broncos	**Justin Strnad**	LB	Wake Forest
179.	Cowboys	**Bradlee Anae**	Edge	Utah
180.	Bengals	**Hakeem Adeniji**	G	Kansas
181.	Broncos	**Netane Muti**	G	Fresno State
182.	Patriots	**Mike Onwenu**	G	Michigan
183.	Giants	**Cameron Brown**	LB	Penn State
184.	Panthers	**Bravvion Roy**	DT	Baylor
185.	Dolphins	**Blake Ferguson**	LS	LSU
186.	Chargers	**Alohi Gilman**	S	Notre Dame

Heck: Peter Brouillet; Dallas: Tom DiPace; Murchison, Wanogho: Harrison McClary; Stanley: Tim Umphrey

Round 6

187.	Browns	**Donovan Peoples-Jones**	WR	Michigan
188.	Bills	**Tyler Bass**	K	Georgia Southern
189.	Jaguars	**Jake Luton**	QB	Oregon State
190.	49ers	**Charlie Woerner**	TE	Georgia
191.	Jets	**Braden Mann**	P	Texas A&M
192.	Packers	**Jon Runyan Jr.**	G	Michigan
193.	Colts	**Rob Windsor**	DT	Penn State
194.	Buccaneers	**Khalil Davis**	DT	Nebraska
195.	Patriots	**Justin Herron**	G	Wake Forest
196.	Eagles	**Shaun Bradley**	LB	Temple
197.	Lions	**John Penisini**	DT	Utah
198.	Steelers	**Antoine Brooks Jr.**	S	Maryland
199.	Rams	**Jordan Fuller**	S	Ohio State
200.	Eagles	**Quez Watkins**	WR	Southern Miss
201.	Ravens	**James Proche**	WR	SMU
202.	Cardinals	**Evan Weaver**	LB	California
203.	Vikings	**Blake Brandel**	G	Oregon State
204.	Patriots	**Cassh Maluia**	LB	Wyoming
205.	Vikings	**Josh Metellus**	S	Michigan
206.	Jaguars	**Tyler Davis**	TE	Georgia Tech
207.	Bills	**Isaiah Hodgins**	WR	Oregon State
208.	Packers	**Jake Hanson**	C	Oregon
209.	Packers	**Simon Stepaniak**	G	Indiana
210.	Eagles	**Prince Tega Wanogho**	T	Auburn
211.	Colts	**Isaiah Rodgers**	DB	UMass
212.	Colts	**Dezmon Patmon**	WR	Washington State
213.	Colts	**Jordan Glasgow**	LB	Michigan
214.	Seahawks	**Freddie Swain**	WR	Florida

Round 7



215.	Bengals	**Markus Bailey**	LB	Purdue
216.	Redskins	**Kamren Curl**	S	Arkansas
217.	49ers	**Jauan Jennings**	WR	Tennessee
218.	Giants	**Carter Coughlin**	Edge	Minnesota
219.	Ravens	**Geno Stone**	S	Iowa
220.	Chargers	**K.J. Hill**	WR	Ohio State
221.	Panthers	**Stantley Thomas-Oliver**	CB	FIU
222.	Cardinals	**Eno Benjamin**	RB	Arizona State
223.	Jaguars	**Chris Claybrooks**	CB	Memphis
224.	Titans	**Cole McDonald**	QB	Hawaii
225.	Vikings	**Kenny Willekes**	DE	Michigan State
226.	Bears	**Arlington Hambright**	G	Colorado
227.	Bears	**Lachavious Simmons**	G	Tennessee State
228.	Falcons	**Sterling Hofrichter**	P	Syracuse
229.	Redskins	**James Smith-Williams**	Edge	NC State
230.	Patriots	**Dustin Woodard**	C	Memphis
231.	Cowboys	**Ben DiNucci**	QB	James Madison
232.	Steelers	**Carlos Davis**	DT	Nebraska
233.	Eagles	**Casey Toohill**	Edge	Stanford
234.	Rams	**Clay Johnston**	LB	Baylor
235.	Lions	**Jashon Cornell**	DT	Ohio State
236.	Packers	**Vernon Scott**	DB	TCU
237.	Chiefs	**Bopete Keyes**	CB	Tulane
238.	Giants	**T.J. Brunson**	LB	South Carolina
239.	Bills	**Dane Jackson**	CB	Pittsburgh
240.	Saints	**Tommy Stevens**	QB	Mississippi State
241.	Buccaneers	**Chapelle Russell**	LB	Temple
242.	Packers	**Jonathan Garvin**	Edge	Miami (Fla.)
243.	Titans	**Chris Jackson**	DB	Marshall
244.	Vikings	**Nate Stanley**	QB	Iowa
245.	Buccaneers	**Raymond Calais**	RB	Louisiana
246.	Dolphins	**Malcolm Perry**	WR	Navy
247.	Giants	**Chris Williamson**	CB	Minnesota
248.	Rams	**Sam Sloman**	K	Miami (Ohio)
249.	Vikings	**Brian Cole II**	S	Mississippi State
250.	Rams	**Tremayne Anchrum**	G	Clemson
251.	Seahawks	**Stephen Sullivan**	TE	LSU
252.	Broncos	**Tyrie Cleveland**	WR	Florida
253.	Vikings	**Kyle Hinton**	G	Washburn
254.	Broncos	**Derrek Tuszka**	Edge	North Dakota State
255.	Giants	**Tae Crowder**	LB	Georgia

2020 NFL Draft

NFL GOES VIRTUAL

Years from now, people looking back at the 2020 NFL Draft will not immediately zero in on the number of players in Canton it produced or those missing pieces added to a memorable Super Bowl run. They may not even take note of that late-round steal or undrafted free agent who wound up signing in just the right spot to leave a mark.

Instead, folks will remember not simply who was selected among the 255 picks of the draft, but rather how things unfolded over the course of three days in late April and the weeks that preceded it. Namely, that the entire process from essentially right after the NFL Scouting Combine up to the announcement of Mr. Irrelevant was conducted almost entirely over the Internet.

There was no Pro Day footage to pore over and dissect. Private workouts were limited to backyards over videoconferencing software. Medical re-checks were nonexistent. Even those timeless images of players bear-hugging commissioner Roger Goodell were nowhere to be found in 2020, as the NFL and its next wave of rookies took part in a rare and unique bit of sports business amid a worldwide pandemic. It may have been time for all 32 franchises to select their latest draft class, but they all did so sheltering in place at home due to the coronavirus, in lieu of what was supposed to be Las Vegas' official introduction to pro football.

While a different feel permeated much of the coverage, trading in a grand stage in the middle of the Bellagio fountains for pixelated living rooms across the country still brought with it a most fascinating window into the lives of the hundreds of people we get only glimpses of on Sundays. Millions of viewers tuned in online or on television to see that Detroit Lions head coach Matt Patricia really does his draft work with a pencil tucked behind his ear. They saw Los Angeles Chargers general manager Tom Telesco's powder blue surfboard. The patio where Buccaneers coach Bruce Arians undoubtedly lit up a cigar upon landing Tom Brady? That was right there for all to see, as was Bill Belichick's dog, Nike, who appeared to make the Patriots' selection in the second round from a Nantucket dining room.

And that's not even mentioning the "War Room" of Cardinals coach Kliff Kingsbury, which very well could have been straight from a *GQ* photoshoot. A palatial backyard set in front of a glowing mountain range certainly served as a very different backdrop for the team's six picks compared to last year, when the Cardinals held the very first selection.

Speaking of No. 1 overall, the Cincinnati Bengals (not surprisingly) went

Burrow: AP; Tagovailoa: Paul Abell

with LSU signal-caller Joe Burrow. He became the third straight Heisman winner taken with the first pick, and he is just the second player ever to cap off a season hearing his name first in the draft after winning college football's most prestigious trophy and winning the national title in the same year (Cam Newton being the other). Burrow will be forever linked with the quarterbacks chosen behind him, too, including the back-to-back selections of Alabama QB Tua Tagovailoa (Miami Dolphins) and Oregon's Justin Herbert (Chargers) at fifth and sixth overall, respectively. All told, 2020 marked the sixth time in NFL history since the merger that three QBs were taken in the top 10.

Much ink will also be spilled in the years to come about the next two players taken at the position too. Despite making it to the NFC title game, the Green Bay Packers anointed Utah State's Jordan Love as Aaron Rodgers' eventual replacement by taking the former with the 26th pick. Philadelphia found the most intriguing backup in the league a round later in Jalen Hurts, who became the third consecutive Oklahoma quarterback drafted in as many years.

In a related move, offensive tackles to protect all those signal-callers were also in high demand. Five blind-side protectors were off the board in the first 18 picks, including Georgia's Andrew Thomas to the New York Giants fourth overall.

Perhaps more impactful than any pick made over the course of the three-day event, however, was the new "Draft-A-Thon" component that was introduced by the league as a result of these unique circumstances. On top of past, present and future players joining in on the action, numerous celebrities popped onto NFL social platforms to discuss their favorite teams and what life has been like for them as daily routines across the globe changed overnight. The entire experience wound up raising over $100 million, a remarkable sum all going to various charitable endeavors to support COVID-19 relief. Saints head coach Sean Payton and Rams center Brian Allen were notably front and center several times, conducting interviews about their firsthand experience dealing with and recovering from the coronavirus.

For the entire NFL family, it was all a good reminder that even amid such a period of uncertainty, the game of football can pull people together unlike anything else. COVID-19 may have forced the draft out of Las Vegas in 2020, but the show still went on in a way that will be remembered for years to come.

Joe Burrow

GEAUX TIGERS

LSU's 2019 season — a perfect 15–0 record and the national title — may go down as one of the best ever in the history of college football. As if scoring the most points in FBS history wasn't impressive enough, the Tigers added to their legend through one of the most impressive hauls in NFL draft history. The program tied 2004 Ohio State for the record of most selections in a single seven-round draft with 14 (10 of whom went in the first three rounds). Just as impressive, the school also became the first ever to have a quarterback (Cincinnati's Joe Burrow), receiver (Minnesota's Justin Jefferson) and running back (Kansas City's Clyde Edwards-Helaire) drafted in the first round of the same draft.

SCHOOL	NO. OF 2020 DRAFT PICKS
LSU	14
Michigan	10
Ohio State	10
Alabama	9
Clemson	7
Florida	7
Georgia	7
Utah	7
Auburn	6
Notre Dame	6

ROLL TIDE

Though Alabama came up short of making the College Football Playoff last year, the Crimson Tide still managed an impressive final four of their own on Day One of the draft. Following the selections of QB Tua Tagovailoa (Miami), OT Jedrick Wills (Cleveland), WR Henry Ruggs III (Las Vegas), and WR Jerry Jeudy (Denver), Nick Saban's program impressively joined 1968 USC as the only other school to have four offensive players taken in the first round of a single draft.

Tua Tagovailoa

FAMILY TIES

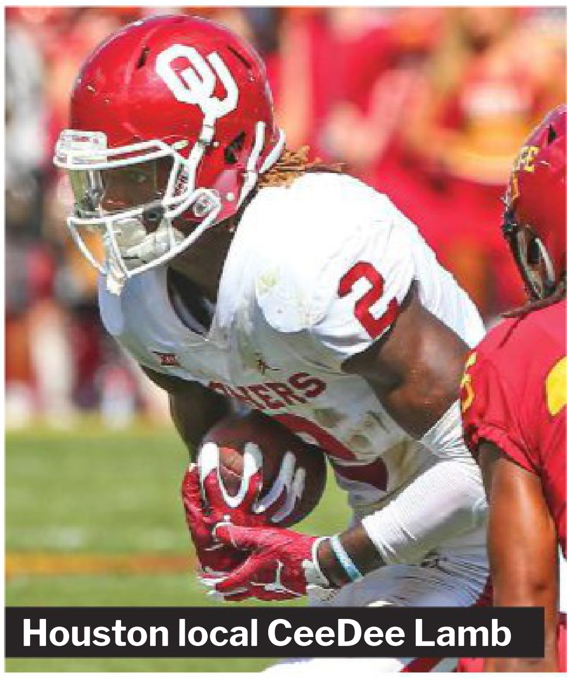
Trevon Diggs

If you got a sense of déjà vu as picks were being announced during the draft, you were not alone. The NFL often embraces its history this time of year and did so quite often over the course of seven rounds, as a number of familiar names were reintroduced back into the league. Whether it's a second generation player joining the family business or a little brother hoping to make his mark, here are a few players carrying on the family legacy who already know a few tricks of the gridiron trade:

- TCU WR **Jalen Reagor** (Eagles, 21st overall) is the son of DT Montae Reagor (58th overall in 1999 NFL Draft). The latter was with the Colts when they won Super Bowl XLI, and he finished his career in, yep, Philadelphia.
- USC receiver **Michael Pittman Jr.** (Colts, 34th overall) went two rounds ahead of where his father, Michael, did in the draft (95th overall in 1998). The latter ran for 124 yards in Tampa Bay's Super Bowl XXXVII victory.
- Notre Dame TE **Cole Kmet's** (Bears, 43rd overall) father Frank Kmet was a 1992 fourth-rounder who briefly played in Chicago. Uncle Jeff Zgonina (1993) won Super Bowl XXXIV and coaches for the Redskins.
- **Antoine Winfield Jr.** (45th overall, Tampa Bay) follows in the footsteps of his father and namesake, a former first-round draft pick in 1999.
- Dallas Cowboys CB **Trevon Diggs** (51st overall) is the younger brother of new Buffalo Bills WR Stefon Diggs (146th overall in 2015).
- New Rams WR **Van Jefferson** (57th overall) is the son of Jets assistant Shawn Jefferson, a 13-year NFL veteran.
- LB **Julian Okwara** (67th overall) should have no issues adjusting to life in Detroit considering brother Romeo is already a member of the Lions defense.
- Falcons center **Matt Hennessy** (78th overall) is the brother of Jets long snapper Thomas Hennessy.
- Lamar Jackson's newest receiver, **Devin Duvernay,** was taken by Baltimore 91 picks after his cousin, Arizona Cardinals QB Kyler Murray, was selected No. 1 the year prior.
- Texans offensive tackle **Charlie Heck** (126th overall) is the son of former first-rounder and current Kansas City Chiefs OL coach Andy Heck.
- All-Big Ten guard **Jon Runyan Jr.** (192nd overall) is the son of the former All-Pro offensive lineman of the same name.

TEXAS TWO-STEP

Everything is bigger in the Lone Star State, and that held true when it came to draft picks, too. While Texas saw its streak snapped of three straight Texas natives as No. 1 overall selections, the legendary high school football factory still took home the title of the state with the most draft picks produced (34). In fact, the Dallas-Fort Worth (12) and Houston (14) metro regions alone had more players drafted than every state except California, Georgia and Florida. Interestingly, just three of the 34 Texans played for the University of Texas, while rival Texas A&M produced just two selections.



Houston local CeeDee Lamb

GOING WIDE

Taking advantage of what was widely hailed as one of the deepest groups of wide receivers in years, teams snatched up pass-catchers left and right during the draft. The first two at the position to hear their names called share a bit of history, as Alabama's Henry Ruggs III (Las Vegas) and Jerry Jeudy (Denver) became the fifth pair of college WR teammates taken together in the first round and the very first set of receivers from the same school who were both selected in the top 15. All told, 13 wideouts were taken in the first two rounds — a new modern-day record. That included an incredible run of five receivers between picks No. 12 and No. 22 alone and consecutive selections to start Day 2 as well.

Diggs: Harrison McClary; Lamb: Jay Biggerstaff

Grant Delpit

IT JUST MEANS MORE (AGAIN)

CONFERENCE	2020 DRAFT PICKS
SEC	63
Big Ten	48
Pac-12	32
ACC	27
Big 12	21

In what is becoming an occurrence you can set your watch by, the SEC led all conferences in draft picks for the 14th year in a row. Although the league fell one player short of tying its own record for total players taken, the conference still managed to set new marks for most players selected in the first two rounds (25) and the first three rounds (40). The SEC actually had more underclassmen (26) drafted than the Big 12 had total draft picks (21).

Yetur Gross-Matos

Delpit: Nathan Rush; Gallimore: Layne Murdoch Sr.; YGM: Bruce Schwartzman

OH CANADA

For the first time since 2014, multiple Canadians heard their names called in the NFL draft. Abbotsford, B.C., native Chase Claypool was selected in the second round (49th overall) by the Pittsburgh Steelers after a stellar career at Notre Dame. Not long after, Oklahoma defensive tackle and Ontario local Neville Gallimore was drafted by the Dallas Cowboys 82nd overall in the third round. The duo from north of the border follow on the heels of fellow Canuck N'Keal Harry being taken in the first round by the New England Patriots last year.

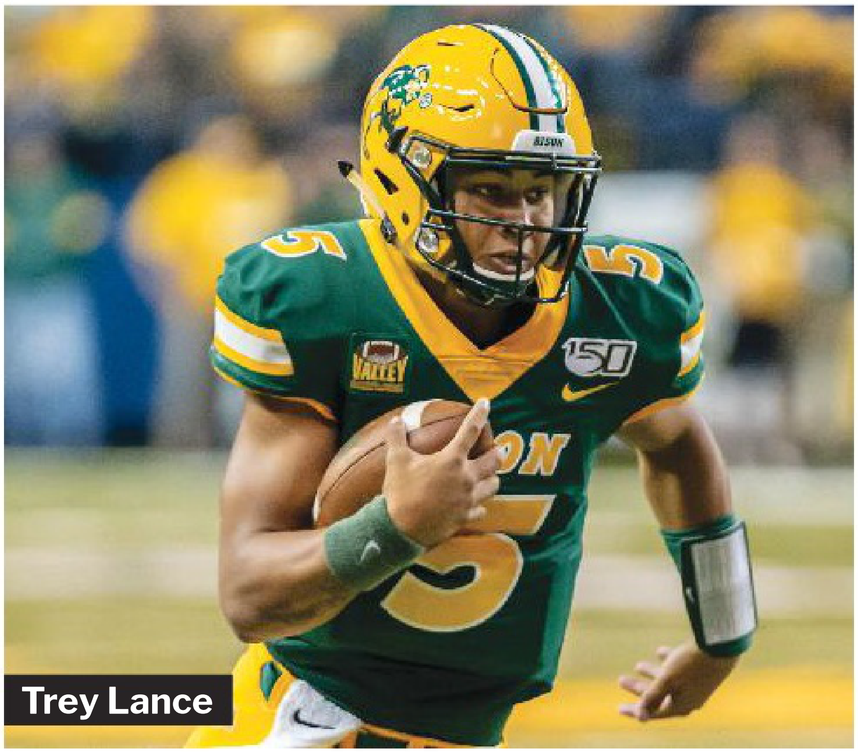
Neville Gallimore

PANTHERS PRIORITY

It did not take long for new Carolina head coach Matt Rhule to leave his imprint on the team during his very first draft in charge. While it could have been just the way the team's board was set, it was pretty clear that the early priority in 2020 was to overhaul the Panthers' 31st-ranked scoring defense with a wave of fresh faces. As a result, the franchise used all seven of its selections on defensive players. That's the first time a team has ever used all its picks on that side of the ball in the common-draft era (since 1967).

2021 Draft Outlook

1.	QB	**Trevor Lawrence**	Clemson	Jr.
2.	QB	**Justin Fields**	Ohio State	Jr.
3.	OT	**Penei Sewell**	Oregon	Jr.
4.	WR	**Ja'Marr Chase**	LSU	Jr.
5.	CB	**Patrick Surtain II**	Alabama	Jr.
6.	WR	**Justyn Ross**	Clemson	Jr.
7.	CB	**Shaun Wade**	Ohio State	Jr.
8.	OLB	**Micah Parsons**	Penn State	Jr.
9.	WR	**Rondale Moore**	Purdue	Jr.
10.	DT	**Marvin Wilson**	Florida State	Sr.
11.	WR	**Jaylen Waddle**	Alabama	Jr.
12.	DE	**Gregory Rousseau**	Miami	So.
13.	ILB	**Dylan Moses**	Alabama	Sr.
14.	RB	**Travis Etienne**	Clemson	Sr.
15.	DT	**Jay Tufele**	USC	Jr.
16.	OT	**Alex Leatherwood**	Alabama	Sr.
17.	DE	**Xavier Thomas**	Clemson	Jr.
18.	TE	**Brevin Jordan**	Miami	Jr.
19.	WR	**Amon-Ra St. Brown**	USC	Jr.
20.	G	**Cade Mays**	Tennessee	Jr.


Trey Lance

21.	CB	**Tyson Campbell**	Georgia	Jr.
22.	WR	**DeVonta Smith**	Alabama	Sr.
23.	QB	**Jamie Newman**	Georgia	Sr.
24.	S	**Richard LeCounte**	Georgia	Sr.
25.	C	**Creed Humphrey**	Oklahoma	Jr.
26.	S	**Jevon Holland**	Oregon	Jr.
27.	OT	**Walker Little**	Stanford	Sr.
28.	OT	**Sam Cosmi**	Texas	Jr.
29.	RB	**CJ Verdell**	Oregon	Jr.
30.	CB	**Trey Dean**	Florida	Jr.
31.	DT	**Lorenzo Neal**	Purdue	Sr.
32.	OLB	**Hamilcar Rashed Jr.**	Oregon State	Sr.
33.	CB	**Paulson Adebo**	Stanford	Sr.

Trevor Lawrence

34.	S	**Hamsah Nasirildeen**	Florida State	Sr.
35.	WR	**Rashod Bateman**	Minnesota	Jr.
36.	S	**Caden Sterns**	Texas	Jr.
37.	DE	**Carlos Basham**	Wake Forest	Sr.
38.	OT	**Liam Eichenberg**	Notre Dame	Sr.
39.	CB	**Josh Jobe**	Alabama	Jr.
40.	DT	**LaBryan Ray**	Alabama	Sr.
41.	QB	**Trey Lance**	North Dakota St.	So.
42.	CB	**Israel Mukuamu**	South Carolina	Jr.
43.	QB	**D'Eriq King**	Miami	Sr.
44.	OT	**Foster Sarell**	Stanford	Sr.
45.	ILB	**Tuf Borland**	Ohio State	Sr.
46.	S	**Richie Grant**	UCF	Sr.
47.	G	**Trey Smith**	Tennessee	Sr.
48.	WR	**Seth Williams**	Auburn	Jr.
49.	CB	**Eric Stokes**	Georgia	Jr.
50.	OT	**Jalen Mayfield**	Michigan	So.

Paulson Adebo

Lawrence: AP; Lance: North Dakoka State Athletics; Adebo: Peter Brouillet; Chase: LSU Athletics; Surtain: Paul Abell

Top 5 Per Position 2021 Draft

QUARTERBACKS

1.	**Trevor Lawrence**	Clemson
2.	**Justin Fields**	Ohio State
3.	**Jamie Newman**	Georgia
4.	**Trey Lance**	North Dakota State
5.	**D'Eriq King**	Miami

RUNNING BACKS

1.	**Travis Etienne**	Clemson
2.	**CJ Verdell**	Oregon
3.	**Najee Harris**	Alabama
4.	**Chuba Hubbard**	Oklahoma State
5.	**Zamir White**	Georgia

WIDE RECEIVERS

1.	**Ja'Marr Chase**	LSU
2.	**Justyn Ross**	Clemson
3.	**Rondale Moore**	Purdue
4.	**Jaylen Waddle**	Alabama
5.	**Amon-Ra St. Brown**	USC

TIGHT ENDS

1.	**Brevin Jordan**	Miami
2.	**Kyle Pitts**	Florida
3.	**Pat Freiermuth**	Penn State
4.	**Matt Bushman**	BYU
5.	**Jake Ferguson**	Wisconsin

CENTERS

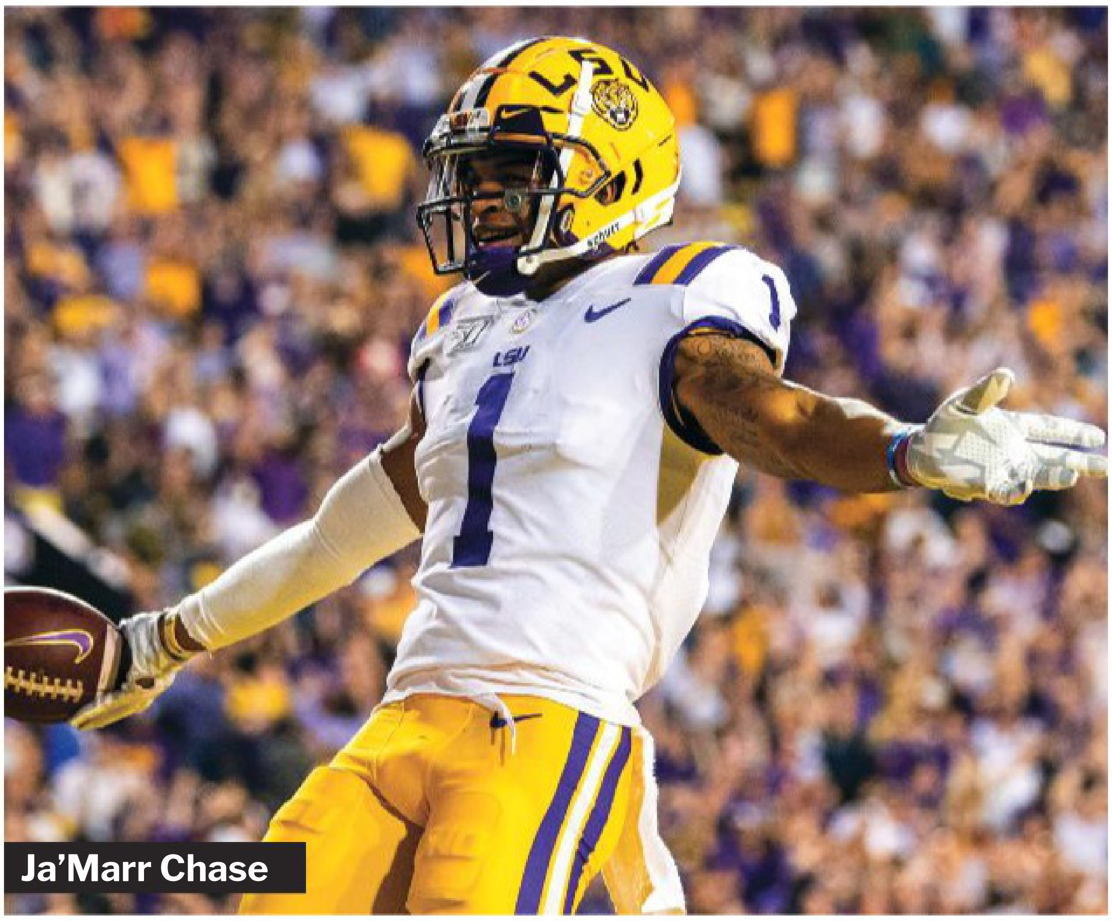
1.	**Creed Humphrey**	Oklahoma
2.	**Josh Myers**	Ohio State
3.	**Jimmy Morrissey**	Pittsburgh
4.	**Michal Menet**	Penn State
5.	**Landon Dickerson**	Alabama

OFFENSIVE GUARDS

1.	**Cade Mays**	Tennessee
2.	**Trey Smith**	Tennessee
3.	**Deonte Brown**	Alabama
4.	**Thayer Munford**	Ohio State
5.	**Wyatt Davis**	Ohio State

OFFENSIVE TACKLES

1.	**Penei Sewell**	Oregon
2.	**Alex Leatherwood**	Alabama
3.	**Walker Little**	Stanford
4.	**Sam Cosmi**	Texas
5.	**Liam Eichenberg**	Notre Dame



Ja'Marr Chase

DEFENSIVE ENDS

1.	**Gregory Rousseau**	Miami
2.	**Xavier Thomas**	Clemson
3.	**Carlos Basham**	Wake Forest
4.	**Thomas Booker**	Stanford
5.	**Mustafa Johnson**	Colorado

DEFENSIVE TACKLES

1.	**Marvin Wilson**	FSU
2.	**Jay Tufele**	USC
3.	**Lorenzo Neal**	Purdue
4.	**LaBryan Ray**	Alabama
5.	**Jaylen Twyman**	Pittsburgh

INSIDE LINEBACKERS

1.	**Dylan Moses**	Alabama
2.	**Tuf Borland**	Ohio State
3.	**Nick Bolton**	Missouri
4.	**Palaie Gaoteote**	USC
5.	**Paddy Fisher**	Northwestern

OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS

1.	**Micah Parsons**	Penn State
2.	**Hamilcar Rashed**	Oregon State
3.	**Quincy Roche**	Miami
4.	**Joe Tryon**	Washington
5.	**Jabril Cox**	LSU

CORNERBACKS

1.	**Patrick Surtain II**	Alabama
2.	**Shaun Wade**	Ohio State
3.	**Tyson Campbell**	Georgia
4.	**Trey Dean**	Florida
5.	**Paulson Adebo**	Stanford

FREE SAFETIES

1.	**Richard LeCounte**	Georgia
2.	**Jevon Holland**	Oregon
3.	**Hamsah Nasirildeen**	FSU
4.	**Caden Sterns**	Texas
5.	**Richie Grant**	UCF

STRONG SAFETIES

1.	**JaCoby Stevens**	LSU
2.	**Talanoa Hufanga**	USC
3.	**Trevon Moehrig**	TCU
4.	**Kolby Harvell-Peel**	Oklahoma State
5.	**Brady Breeze**	Oregon

Patrick Surtain II

Who's #1?

Christian McCaffrey, RB
Carolina Panthers

No need to overthink things here: McCaffrey is the slam-dunk No. 1 pick, especially in PPR leagues. McCaffrey outscored every other non-quarterback last season by well over 100 fantasy points (Athlon scoring), and the gap is even bigger between him and the No. 2 running back. Since there are fewer bell-cow backs than ever before, you can't afford to wait until the end of the second round to grab your first running back, and McCaffrey is as complete a back as you can find. With Joe Brady directing the offense and a big upgrade at quarterback with Teddy Bridgewater, Carolina should have a stronger offense, and McCaffrey will be a major beneficiary. McCaffrey was held under 60 rushing yards six times last year, but that should happen less in 2020 since defenses have to respect-Bridgewater's arm and can't stack the box as frequently. The Panthers may come to regret paying a running back so much several years down the road, but that shouldn't dissuade you in his age-24 season.
– Ben Weinrib, Athlon Sports

McCaffrey is the No. 1 pick in any fantasy format this year. Will he definitely finish atop the board again? No. But the guy just finished ranking fourth in the league in carries AND second in receptions. McCaffrey's receiving numbers alone would have tied him for 11th among running backs in PPR points for 2019.

Now comes a new head coach with a run-heavy history. Matt Rhule spent 11 years as an offensive coordinator or head coach in college. Those 11 offenses collectively ran the ball on 53.8 percent of offensive snaps. That's nearly a 2019 Ravens-level run lean. And new QB Teddy Bridgewater ranked last among qualifying passers in average depth of target (aDOT) for 2019.

Who's the top short-range target in Carolina again?

A healthy Saquon Barkley has a shot to approximate McCaffrey's total touches. A healthy Alvin Kamara could go TD wild for the Saints. Each could outscore McCaffrey for the season.

But the Panther should lead off your 2020 fantasy draft.
– Matt Schauf, DraftSharks.com

McCaffrey, Barkley: W.E. Smith

In PPR formats, McCaffrey had the most fantasy points out of ANY player. That includes quarterbacks, who usually reside at the top of the points chart. In non-PPR formats, McCaffrey was second behind only MVP Lamar Jackson.

He had a career year, with 1,387 rushing yards, 15 rushing touchdowns, 116 receptions, 1,005 receiving yards and four receiving touchdowns. His rushing total was third in the league, and he had the second-most touchdowns on the ground. He also finished second in the entire NFL in receptions. How could you not draft him as No. 1 overall? The Panthers will have Teddy Bridgewater at the helm this season, but that should only help ensure that McCaffrey gets the lion's share of touches. He's the top pick, regardless of PPR/non-PPR format.

– Sarah Lewis, AthlonSports.com fantasy contributor

I hate falling into consensus, and in fact I started off making a defense of Saquon Barkley for the No. 1 pick, but here's where we're at:

- McCaffrey dominated all running backs in receiving yardage last year, in a league that has only gone more and more in that direction over the last 10 years.
- McCaffrey signed a huge contract extension this offseason, so there's no ulterior motivation for the team to get someone else going.
- New offensive coordinator Joe Brady, formerly of LSU, turned primary back Clyde Edwards-Helaire into the third-leading receiver on a national championship team, and he almost always let Joe Burrow throw from five-man protections.
- New starting quarterback Teddy Bridgewater has more problems throwing deep than throwing short, meaning that despite the stacked receiving corps, McCaffrey should still be the easiest target.

It all adds up to there being not a lot of reasons to pick someone else first.

– Rivers McCown, Football Outsiders

Saquon Barkley, RB, New York Giants

I fully understand the reasoning behind Christian McCaffrey being a near-unanimous pick for No. 1 overall. But as someone who has been burned in the past by the so-called "sure thing," I'm willing to look at other options. Even though Barkley missed three-plus games because of his sprained ankle and was likely limited in a couple more, he still finished as a top-12 scorer at his position. What's more, Barkley is one of the few backs likely to get the opportunity to match McCaffrey in terms of total touches. Barkley finished 2019 strong (539 total yards, five TDs in his last three games), and the Giants have made a concerted effort this offseason to address what has been a shaky offensive line. There's absolutely nothing wrong with taking McCaffrey at No. 1, but that doesn't mean you can't be a contrarian.

– Mark Ross, Athlon Sports

Trade down/ McCaffrey

If I get the first pick, I'm trading down. Now, I'm not a dummy. I'm not trading out of the first round. I'm swapping first-round picks and looking for either additional picks or later advantageous swaps. Suppose the fifth overall pick offers to trade spots in the first round in a deal that also includes swapping out picks in the second and fourth rounds? I'm taking it.

In the last dozen-plus years, you know how many times the consensus No. 1 overall pick ended up being the best overall player that year? Twice. Your odds are better picking a name out of a hat! And given the documented bust rate of the top overall pick, I'd rather rely on my ability to differentiate in the middle rounds than hope for what is not even a 15 percent chance of guessing right on the top player.

Now, if couldn't trade out, I'd go with McCaffrey. Unless I'm in a two-QB or Superflex league, I'm taking a RB with the first overall pick. More than 4,300 combined yards the last two years? No one else even comes close. Give me McCaffrey.

– Mark Strausberg, AthlonSports.com fantasy contributor

POSITION *Rankings*

Christian McCaffrey

Running Backs

	Running Backs	Team	Bye
☐	1. **Christian McCaffrey**	CAR	13
☐	2. **Saquon Barkley**	NYG	11
☐	3. **Alvin Kamara**	NO	6
☐	4. **Dalvin Cook**	MIN	7
☐	5. **Ezekiel Elliott**	DAL	10
☐	6. **Derrick Henry**	TEN	7
☐	7. **Leonard Fournette**	JAC	7
☐	8. **Nick Chubb**	CLE	9
☐	9. **Austin Ekeler**	LAC	10
☐	10. **Josh Jacobs**	LV	6
☐	11. **Miles Sanders**	PHI	9
☐	12. **Joe Mixon**	CIN	9
☐	13. **Aaron Jones**	GB	5
☐	14. **Clyde Edwards-Helaire**	KC	10
☐	15. **Jonathan Taylor**	IND	7
☐	16. **James Conner**	PIT	8
☐	17. **Kenyan Drake**	ARI	8
☐	18. **Le'Veon Bell**	NYJ	11
☐	19. **Melvin Gordon III**	DEN	8
☐	20. **Todd Gurley II**	ATL	10
☐	21. **D'Andre Swift**	DET	5
☐	22. **David Montgomery**	CHI	11
☐	23. **Devin Singletary**	BUF	11
☐	24. **Cam Akers**	LAR	9
☐	25. **David Johnson**	HOU	8
☐	26. **J.K. Dobbins**	BAL	8
☐	27. **Chris Carson**	SEA	6
☐	28. **James White**	NE	6
☐	29. **Kareem Hunt**	CLE	9
☐	30. **Raheem Mostert**	SF	11
☐	31. **Matt Breida**	MIA	11
☐	32. **Ke'Shawn Vaughn**	TB	13
☐	33. **Tarik Cohen**	CHI	11
☐	34. **Mark Ingram II**	BAL	8
☐	35. **Sony Michel**	NE	6
☐	36. **Ronald Jones II**	TB	13
☐	37. **Derrius Guice**	WAS	8
☐	38. **Jordan Howard**	MIA	11
☐	39. **Tevin Coleman**	SF	11
☐	40. **Phillip Lindsay**	DEN	8

	Running Backs	Team	Bye
☐	41. **Latavius Murray**	NO	6
☐	42. **Kerryon Johnson**	DET	5
☐	43. **Damien Williams**	KC	10
☐	44. **Zack Moss**	BUF	11
☐	45. **Boston Scott**	PHI	9
☐	46. **Nyheim Hines**	IND	7
☐	47. **Darrell Henderson Jr.**	LAR	9
☐	48. **Alexander Mattison**	MIN	7
☐	49. **Jamaal Williams**	GB	5
☐	50. **Ito Smith**	ATL	10
☐	51. **Duke Johnson**	HOU	8
☐	52. **Chase Edmonds**	ARI	8
☐	53. **Antonio Gibson**	WAS	8
☐	54. **Tony Pollard**	DAL	10
☐	55. **Marlon Mack**	IND	7
☐	56. **Adrian Peterson**	WAS	8
☐	57. **Giovani Bernard**	CIN	9
☐	58. **Jaylen Samuels**	PIT	8
☐	59. **Frank Gore**	NYJ	11
☐	60. **Darrynton Evans**	TEN	7
☐	61. **Justin Jackson**	LAC	10
☐	62. **Carlos Hyde**	SEA	6
☐	63. **Lynn Bowden Jr.**	LV	6
☐	64. **Rex Burkhead**	NE	6
☐	65. **Jalen Richard**	LV	6
☐	66. **AJ Dillon**	GB	5
☐	67. **Rashaad Penny**	SEA	6
☐	68. **Jerick McKinnon**	SF	11
☐	69. **Malcolm Brown**	LAR	9
☐	70. **Dare Ogunbowale**	TB	13
☐	71. **DeeJay Dallas**	SEA	6
☐	72. **Eno Benjamin**	ARI	8
☐	73. **Anthony McFarland Jr.**	PIT	8
☐	74. **DeAndre Washington**	KC	10
☐	75. **Ryquell Armstead**	JAC	7
☐	76. **Joshua Kelley**	LAC	10
☐	77. **Justice Hill**	BAL	8
☐	78. **Royce Freeman**	DEN	8
☐	79. **Benny Snell Jr.**	PIT	8
☐	80. **Damien Harris**	NE	6

Quarterbacks

	Quarterbacks	Team	Bye
☐	1. **Lamar Jackson**	BAL	8
☐	2. **Patrick Mahomes**	KC	10
☐	3. **Dak Prescott**	DAL	10
☐	4. **Russell Wilson**	SEA	6
☐	5. **Deshaun Watson**	HOU	8
☐	6. **Kyler Murray**	ARI	8
☐	7. **Tom Brady**	TB	13
☐	8. **Drew Brees**	NO	6
☐	9. **Josh Allen**	BUF	11
☐	10. **Matt Ryan**	ATL	10
☐	11. **Carson Wentz**	PHI	9
☐	12. **Aaron Rodgers**	GB	5
☐	13. **Jared Goff**	LAR	9
☐	14. **Matthew Stafford**	DET	5
☐	15. **Ryan Tannehill**	TEN	7
☐	16. **Jimmy Garoppolo**	SF	11
☐	17. **Baker Mayfield**	CLE	9
☐	18. **Ben Roethlisberger**	PIT	8
☐	19. **Daniel Jones**	NYG	11
☐	20. **Kirk Cousins**	MIN	7
☐	21. **Gardner Minshew II**	JAC	7
☐	22. **Joe Burrow**	CIN	9
☐	23. **Philip Rivers**	IND	7
☐	24. **Drew Lock**	DEN	8
☐	25. **Sam Darnold**	NYJ	11

	Quarterbacks	Team	Bye
☐	26. **Derek Carr**	LV	6
☐	27. **Dwayne Haskins Jr.**	WAS	8
☐	28. **Teddy Bridgewater**	CAR	13
☐	29. **Justin Herbert**	LAC	10
☐	30. **Ryan Fitzpatrick**	MIA	11
☐	31. **Jarrett Stidham**	NE	6
☐	32. **Nick Foles**	CHI	11
☐	33. **Mitchell Trubisky**	CHI	11
☐	34. **Brian Hoyer**	NE	6
☐	35. **Tua Tagovailoa**	MIA	11
☐	36. **Tyrod Taylor**	LAC	10
☐	37. **Mason Rudolph**	PIT	8
☐	38. **Jacoby Brissett**	IND	7
☐	39. **Jalen Hurts**	PHI	9
☐	40. **Cam Newton**	FA	
☐	41. **Jeff Driskel**	DEN	8
☐	42. **Marcus Mariota**	LV	6
☐	43. **P.J. Walker**	CAR	13
☐	44. **Kyle Allen**	WAS	8
☐	45. **Jameis Winston**	NO	6
☐	46. **Robert Griffin III**	BAL	8
☐	47. **Brett Hundley**	ARI	8
☐	48. **Andy Dalton**	DAL	10
☐	49. **Matt Schaub**	ATL	10
☐	50. **Blaine Gabbert**	TB	13

Lamar Jackson

Patrick Mahomes

Jackson: W.E. Smith; Mahomes: Tim Umphrey; McCaffrey, Thomas: Peter Brouillet

Wide Receivers

	Wide Receivers	Team	Bye
☐	1. Michael Thomas	NO	6
☐	2. Tyreek Hill	KC	10
☐	3. Davante Adams	GB	5
☐	4. Chris Godwin	TB	13
☐	5. Mike Evans	TB	13
☐	6. Julio Jones	ATL	10
☐	7. DeAndre Hopkins	ARI	8
☐	8. Robert Woods	LAR	9
☐	9. Amari Cooper	DAL	10
☐	10. Kenny Golladay	DET	5
☐	11. Allen Robinson II	CHI	11
☐	12. Odell Beckham Jr.	CLE	9
☐	13. Tyler Lockett	SEA	6
☐	14. Cooper Kupp	LAR	9
☐	15. Adam Thielen	MIN	7
☐	16. Calvin Ridley	ATL	10
☐	17. T.Y. Hilton	IND	7
☐	18. Courtland Sutton	DEN	8
☐	19. Michael Gallup	DAL	10
☐	20. DJ Moore	CAR	13
☐	21. Tyler Boyd	CIN	9
☐	22. A.J. Green	CIN	9
☐	23. JuJu Smith-Schuster	PIT	8
☐	24. Brandin Cooks	HOU	8
☐	25. Keenan Allen	LAC	10
☐	26. Terry McLaurin	WAS	8
☐	27. Deebo Samuel	SF	11
☐	28. A.J. Brown	TEN	7
☐	29. DK Metcalf	SEA	6
☐	30. DJ Chark Jr.	JAC	7
☐	31. Jarvis Landry	CLE	9
☐	32. Stefon Diggs	BUF	11
☐	33. Marquise Brown	BAL	8
☐	34. Will Fuller V	HOU	8
☐	35. Sterling Shepard	NYG	11
☐	36. Jamison Crowder	NYJ	11
☐	37. DeVante Parker	MIA	11
☐	38. Jerry Jeudy	DEN	8
☐	39. Emmanuel Sanders	NO	6
☐	40. DeSean Jackson	PHI	9
☐	41. Tyrell Williams	LV	6
☐	42. Julian Edelman	NE	6
☐	43. John Brown	BUF	11
☐	44. CeeDee Lamb	DAL	10
☐	45. Christian Kirk	ARI	8
☐	46. Marvin Jones Jr.	DET	5
☐	47. Anthony Miller	CHI	11
☐	48. Breshad Perriman	NYJ	11
☐	49. Diontae Johnson	PIT	8
☐	50. Robby Anderson	CAR	13
☐	51. Golden Tate	NYG	11
☐	52. Parris Campbell	IND	7
☐	53. Mike Williams	LAC	10
☐	54. Darius Slayton	NYG	11
☐	55. Curtis Samuel	CAR	13
☐	56. Preston Williams	MIA	11
☐	57. James Washington	PIT	8
☐	58. Sammy Watkins	KC	10
☐	59. Corey Davis	TEN	7
☐	60. Henry Ruggs III	LV	6
☐	61. Cole Beasley	BUF	11
☐	62. Larry Fitzgerald	ARI	8
☐	63. Kelvin Harmon	WAS	8
☐	64. Justin Jefferson	MIN	7
☐	65. Brandon Aiyuk	SF	11
☐	66. Allen Lazard	GB	5
☐	67. Russell Gage	ATL	10
☐	68. Denzel Mims	NYJ	11
☐	69. Hunter Renfrow	LV	6
☐	70. Miles Boykin	BAL	8
☐	71. John Ross III	CIN	9
☐	72. Randall Cobb	HOU	8
☐	73. Laviska Shenault Jr.	JAC	7
☐	74. Danny Amendola	DET	5
☐	75. N'Keal Harry	NE	6
☐	76. Tyler Johnson	TB	13
☐	77. Jalen Reagor	PHI	9
☐	78. Josh Reynolds	LAR	9
☐	79. Devin Funchess	GB	5
☐	80. Chris Conley	JAC	7
☐	81. Kenny Stills	HOU	8
☐	82. Adam Humphries	TEN	7
☐	83. Michael Pittman Jr.	IND	7
☐	84. Mohamed Sanu Sr.	NE	6
☐	85. Albert Wilson	MIA	11
☐	86. Phillip Dorsett	SEA	6
☐	87. Mecole Hardman	KC	10
☐	88. Tee Higgins	CIN	9
☐	89. KJ Hamler	DEN	8
☐	90. Steven Sims Jr.	WAS	8

Michael Thomas

Tight Ends

	Tight Ends	Team	Bye
☐	1. Travis Kelce	KC	10
☐	2. George Kittle	SF	11
☐	3. Mark Andrews	BAL	8
☐	4. Zach Ertz	PHI	9
☐	5. Darren Waller	LV	6
☐	6. Evan Engram	NYG	11
☐	7. Hunter Henry	LAC	10
☐	8. Hayden Hurst	ATL	10
☐	9. Jack Doyle	IND	7
☐	10. Tyler Higbee	LAR	9
☐	11. Blake Jarwin	DAL	10
☐	12. Jared Cook	NO	6
☐	13. T.J. Hockenson	DET	5
☐	14. Noah Fant	DEN	8
☐	15. Rob Gronkowski	TB	13
☐	16. Austin Hooper	CLE	9
☐	17. Dallas Goedert	PHI	9
☐	18. Kyle Rudolph	MIN	7
☐	19. Jonnu Smith	TEN	7
☐	20. Jace Sternberger	GB	5
☐	21. Chris Herndon	NYJ	11
☐	22. Mike Gesicki	MIA	11
☐	23. Eric Ebron	PIT	8
☐	24. Dawson Knox	BUF	11
☐	25. Irv Smith Jr.	MIN	7
☐	26. Gerald Everett	LAR	9
☐	27. Jimmy Graham	CHI	11
☐	28. Will Dissly	SEA	6
☐	29. O.J. Howard	TB	13
☐	30. Tyler Eifert	JAC	7
☐	31. Darren Fells	HOU	8
☐	32. C.J. Uzomah	CIN	9
☐	33. Ian Thomas	CAR	13
☐	34. Greg Olsen	SEA	6
☐	35. Jordan Akins	HOU	8
☐	36. Vance McDonald	PIT	8
☐	37. Josh Oliver	JAC	7
☐	38. Cole Kmet	CHI	11
☐	39. Ryan Griffin	NYJ	11
☐	40. Logan Thomas	WAS	8
☐	41. Nick Boyle	BAL	8
☐	42. Anthony Firkser	TEN	7
☐	43. Jason Witten	LV	6
☐	44. Maxx Williams	ARI	8
☐	45. Jeremy Sprinkle	WAS	8
☐	46. Drew Sample	CIN	9
☐	47. Matt LaCosse	NE	6
☐	48. Devin Asiasi	NE	6
☐	49. Marcedes Lewis	GB	5
☐	50. Adam Trautman	NO	6

Kickers

	Kickers	Team	Bye
☐	1. Justin Tucker	BAL	8
☐	2. Harrison Butker	KC	10
☐	3. Wil Lutz	NO	6
☐	4. Matt Gay	TB	13
☐	5. Dan Bailey	MIN	7
☐	6. Robbie Gould	SF	11
☐	7. Jake Elliott	PHI	9
☐	8. Matt Prater	DET	5
☐	9. Ka'imi Fairbairn	HOU	8
☐	10. Greg Zuerlein	DAL	10
☐	11. Younghoe Koo	ATL	10
☐	12. Jason Myers	SEA	6
☐	13. Zane Gonzalez	ARI	8
☐	14. Michael Badgley	LAC	10
☐	15. Mason Crosby	GB	5
☐	16. Samuel Sloman	LAR	9
☐	17. Chris Boswell	PIT	8
☐	18. Austin Seibert	CLE	9
☐	19. Justin Rohrwasser	NE	6
☐	20. Brandon McManus	DEN	8
☐	21. Josh Lambo	JAC	7
☐	22. Dustin Hopkins	WAS	8
☐	23. Randy Bullock	CIN	9
☐	24. Aldrick Rosas	NYG	11
☐	25. Chase McLaughlin	IND	7
☐	26. Stephen Hauschka	BUF	11
☐	27. Graham Gano	CAR	13
☐	28. Daniel Carlson	LV	6
☐	29. Eddy Piñeiro	CHI	11
☐	30. Brett Maher	NYJ	11
☐	31. Jason Sanders	MIA	11
☐	32. Greg Joseph	TEN	7

Defense/Special Teams

	Defense/Special Teams	Bye
☐	1. Baltimore	8
☐	2. L.A. Chargers	10
☐	3. L.A. Rams	9
☐	4. Chicago	11
☐	5. New Orleans	6
☐	6. Pittsburgh	8
☐	7. New England	6
☐	8. Kansas City	10
☐	9. Minnesota	7
☐	10. Indianapolis	7
☐	11. San Francisco	11
☐	12. Philadelphia	9
☐	13. Buffalo	11
☐	14. Green Bay	5
☐	15. Tampa Bay	13
☐	16. Seattle	6
☐	17. Arizona	8
☐	18. Houston	8
☐	19. Atlanta	10
☐	20. N.Y. Jets	11
☐	21. Jacksonville	7
☐	22. Washington	8
☐	23. Dallas	10
☐	24. Tennessee	7
☐	25. Cleveland	9
☐	26. Denver	8
☐	27. Cincinnati	9
☐	28. Miami	11
☐	29. Las Vegas	6
☐	30. Detroit	5
☐	31. N.Y. Giants	11
☐	32. Carolina	13

TOP 280 FANTASY
Big Board

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Alvin Kamara

Dalvin Cook

Rank	Player	Team	Pos	Bye
☐ 1.	Christian McCaffrey	CAR	RB	13
☐ 2.	Saquon Barkley	NYG	RB	11
☐ 3.	Alvin Kamara	NO	RB	6
☐ 4.	Dalvin Cook	MIN	RB	7
☐ 5.	Ezekiel Elliott	DAL	RB	10
☐ 6.	Michael Thomas	NO	WR	6
☐ 7.	Derrick Henry	TEN	RB	7
☐ 8.	Leonard Fournette	JAC	RB	7
☐ 9.	Tyreek Hill	KC	WR	10
☐ 10.	Davante Adams	GB	WR	5
☐ 11.	Travis Kelce	KC	TE	10
☐ 12.	Nick Chubb	CLE	RB	9
☐ 13.	Austin Ekeler	LAC	RB	10
☐ 14.	Chris Godwin	TB	WR	13
☐ 15.	Mike Evans	TB	WR	13
☐ 16.	Julio Jones	ATL	WR	10
☐ 17.	Josh Jacobs	LV	RB	6
☐ 18.	Miles Sanders	PHI	RB	9
☐ 19.	Joe Mixon	CIN	RB	9
☐ 20.	Aaron Jones	GB	RB	5
☐ 21.	George Kittle	SF	TE	11
☐ 22.	DeAndre Hopkins	ARI	WR	8
☐ 23.	Lamar Jackson	BAL	QB	8
☐ 24.	Clyde Edwards-Helaire	KC	RB	10
☐ 25.	Jonathan Taylor	IND	RB	7
☐ 26.	Robert Woods	LAR	WR	9
☐ 27.	Amari Cooper	DAL	WR	10
☐ 28.	Kenny Golladay	DET	WR	5
☐ 29.	Allen Robinson II	CHI	WR	11
☐ 30.	Odell Beckham Jr.	CLE	WR	9
☐ 31.	Patrick Mahomes	KC	QB	10
☐ 32.	Mark Andrews	BAL	TE	8
☐ 33.	James Conner	PIT	RB	8
☐ 34.	Kenyan Drake	ARI	RB	8
☐ 35.	Le'Veon Bell	NYJ	RB	11
☐ 36.	Zach Ertz	PHI	TE	9
☐ 37.	Melvin Gordon III	DEN	RB	8
☐ 38.	Todd Gurley II	ATL	RB	10
☐ 39.	D'Andre Swift	DET	RB	5
☐ 40.	Tyler Lockett	SEA	WR	6
☐ 41.	Cooper Kupp	LAR	WR	9
☐ 42.	Adam Thielen	MIN	WR	7
☐ 43.	Calvin Ridley	ATL	WR	10
☐ 44.	T.Y. Hilton	IND	WR	7
☐ 45.	David Montgomery	CHI	RB	11
☐ 46.	Devin Singletary	BUF	RB	11
☐ 47.	Cam Akers	LAR	RB	9
☐ 48.	David Johnson	HOU	RB	8
☐ 49.	J.K. Dobbins	BAL	RB	8
☐ 50.	Chris Carson	SEA	RB	6
☐ 51.	Courtland Sutton	DEN	WR	8
☐ 52.	Michael Gallup	DAL	WR	10
☐ 53.	DJ Moore	CAR	WR	13
☐ 54.	Tyler Boyd	CIN	WR	9
☐ 55.	Darren Waller	LV	TE	6
☐ 56.	Evan Engram	NYG	TE	11
☐ 57.	Hunter Henry	LAC	TE	10
☐ 58.	A.J. Green	CIN	WR	9
☐ 59.	JuJu Smith-Schuster	PIT	WR	8
☐ 60.	Brandin Cooks	HOU	WR	8
☐ 61.	Keenan Allen	LAC	WR	10
☐ 62.	Dak Prescott	DAL	QB	10
☐ 63.	Terry McLaurin	WAS	WR	8
☐ 64.	Deebo Samuel	SF	WR	11
☐ 65.	A.J. Brown	TEN	WR	7
☐ 66.	DK Metcalf	SEA	WR	6
☐ 67.	DJ Chark Jr.	JAC	WR	7
☐ 68.	Jarvis Landry	CLE	WR	9
☐ 69.	Stefon Diggs	BUF	WR	11
☐ 70.	Russell Wilson	SEA	QB	6
☐ 71.	James White	NE	RB	6
☐ 72.	Kareem Hunt	CLE	RB	9
☐ 73.	Raheem Mostert	SF	RB	11
☐ 74.	Deshaun Watson	HOU	QB	8
☐ 75.	Marquise Brown	BAL	WR	8
☐ 76.	Will Fuller V	HOU	WR	8
☐ 77.	Sterling Shepard	NYG	WR	11
☐ 78.	Jamison Crowder	NYJ	WR	11
☐ 79.	DeVante Parker	MIA	WR	11
☐ 80.	Kyler Murray	ARI	QB	8
☐ 81.	Tom Brady	TB	QB	13
☐ 82.	Matt Breida	MIA	RB	11
☐ 83.	Ke'Shawn Vaughn	TB	RB	13
☐ 84.	Tarik Cohen	CHI	RB	11
☐ 85.	Mark Ingram II	BAL	RB	8
☐ 86.	Sony Michel	NE	RB	6
☐ 87.	Drew Brees	NO	QB	6
☐ 88.	Jerry Jeudy	DEN	WR	8
☐ 89.	Emmanuel Sanders	NO	WR	6
☐ 90.	DeSean Jackson	PHI	WR	9
☐ 91.	Tyrell Williams	LV	WR	6
☐ 92.	Ronald Jones II	TB	RB	13
☐ 93.	Derrius Guice	WAS	RB	8
☐ 94.	Jordan Howard	MIA	RB	11
☐ 95.	Tevin Coleman	SF	RB	11
☐ 96.	Julian Edelman	NE	WR	6
☐ 97.	John Brown	BUF	WR	11
☐ 98.	CeeDee Lamb	DAL	WR	10
☐ 99.	Christian Kirk	ARI	WR	8
☐ 100.	Marvin Jones Jr.	DET	WR	5
☐ 101.	Josh Allen	BUF	QB	11
☐ 102.	Matt Ryan	ATL	QB	10
☐ 103.	Carson Wentz	PHI	QB	9
☐ 104.	Aaron Rodgers	GB	QB	5
☐ 105.	Phillip Lindsay	DEN	RB	8
☐ 106.	Latavius Murray	NO	RB	6
☐ 107.	Kerryon Johnson	DET	RB	5
☐ 108.	Damien Williams	KC	RB	10
☐ 109.	Hayden Hurst	ATL	TE	10
☐ 110.	Jack Doyle	IND	TE	7
☐ 111.	Tyler Higbee	LAR	TE	9
☐ 112.	Anthony Miller	CHI	WR	11
☐ 113.	Breshad Perriman	NYJ	WR	11
☐ 114.	Diontae Johnson	PIT	WR	8
☐ 115.	Robby Anderson	CAR	WR	13
☐ 116.	Golden Tate	NYG	WR	11
☐ 117.	Parris Campbell	IND	WR	7
☐ 118.	Mike Williams	LAC	WR	10
☐ 119.	Darius Slayton	NYG	WR	11
☐ 120.	Curtis Samuel	CAR	WR	13

Kamara, Cook: Peter Brouillet; Howard: W.E. Smith

Rank	Player	Team	Pos	Bye
☐ 121.	Preston Williams	MIA	WR	11
☐ 122.	James Washington	PIT	WR	8
☐ 123.	Sammy Watkins	KC	WR	10
☐ 124.	Corey Davis	TEN	WR	7
☐ 125.	Blake Jarwin	DAL	TE	10
☐ 126.	Jared Cook	NO	TE	6
☐ 127.	T.J. Hockenson	DET	TE	5
☐ 128.	Noah Fant	DEN	TE	8
☐ 129.	Rob Gronkowski	TB	TE	13
☐ 130.	Austin Hooper	CLE	TE	9
☐ 131.	Dallas Goedert	PHI	TE	9
☐ 132.	Zack Moss	BUF	RB	11
☐ 133.	Boston Scott	PHI	RB	9
☐ 134.	Nyheim Hines	IND	RB	7
☐ 135.	Darrell Henderson Jr.	LAR	RB	9
☐ 136.	Alexander Mattison	MIN	RB	7
☐ 137.	Henry Ruggs III	LV	WR	6
☐ 138.	Cole Beasley	BUF	WR	11
☐ 139.	Larry Fitzgerald	ARI	WR	8
☐ 140.	Jared Goff	LAR	QB	9
☐ 141.	Matthew Stafford	DET	QB	5
☐ 142.	Ryan Tannehill	TEN	QB	7
☐ 143.	Kelvin Harmon	WAS	WR	8
☐ 144.	Justin Jefferson	MIN	WR	7
☐ 145.	Brandon Aiyuk	SF	WR	11
☐ 146.	Ravens	BAL	DST	8
☐ 147.	Jimmy Garoppolo	SF	QB	11
☐ 148.	Baker Mayfield	CLE	QB	9
☐ 149.	Ben Roethlisberger	PIT	QB	8
☐ 150.	Daniel Jones	NYG	QB	11
☐ 151.	Chargers	LAC	DST	10
☐ 152.	Rams	LAR	DST	9
☐ 153.	Bears	CHI	DST	11
☐ 154.	Kyle Rudolph	MIN	TE	7
☐ 155.	Jonnu Smith	TEN	TE	7
☐ 156.	Jace Sternberger	GB	TE	5
☐ 157.	Chris Herndon	NYJ	TE	11
☐ 158.	Mike Gesicki	MIA	TE	11
☐ 159.	Jamaal Williams	GB	RB	5
☐ 160.	Ito Smith	ATL	RB	10
☐ 161.	Duke Johnson	HOU	RB	8
☐ 162.	Chase Edmonds	ARI	RB	8
☐ 163.	Antonio Gibson	WAS	RB	8
☐ 164.	Tony Pollard	DAL	RB	10
☐ 165.	Marlon Mack	IND	RB	7
☐ 166.	Adrian Peterson	WAS	RB	8
☐ 167.	Allen Lazard	GB	WR	5
☐ 168.	Russell Gage	ATL	WR	10
☐ 169.	Denzel Mims	NYJ	WR	11
☐ 170.	Hunter Renfrow	LV	WR	6
☐ 171.	Miles Boykin	BAL	WR	8
☐ 172.	Giovani Bernard	CIN	RB	9
☐ 173.	Jaylen Samuels	PIT	RB	8
☐ 174.	John Ross III	CIN	WR	9
☐ 175.	Randall Cobb	HOU	WR	8
☐ 176.	Kirk Cousins	MIN	QB	7
☐ 177.	Gardner Minshew II	JAC	QB	7
☐ 178.	Joe Burrow	CIN	QB	9
☐ 179.	Philip Rivers	IND	QB	7
☐ 180.	Saints	NO	DST	6

Rank	Player	Team	Pos	Bye
☐ 181.	Steelers	PIT	DST	8
☐ 182.	Patriots	NE	DST	6
☐ 183.	Chiefs	KC	DST	10
☐ 184.	Vikings	MIN	DST	7
☐ 185.	Laviska Shenault Jr.	JAC	WR	7
☐ 186.	Danny Amendola	DET	WR	5
☐ 187.	N'Keal Harry	NE	WR	6
☐ 188.	Frank Gore	NYJ	RB	11
☐ 189.	Darrynton Evans	TEN	RB	7
☐ 190.	Justin Jackson	LAC	RB	10
☐ 191.	Carlos Hyde	SEA	RB	6
☐ 192.	Lynn Bowden Jr.	LV	RB	6
☐ 193.	Rex Burkhead	NE	RB	6
☐ 194.	Jalen Richard	LV	RB	6
☐ 195.	AJ Dillon	GB	RB	5
☐ 196.	Colts	IND	DST	7
☐ 197.	49ers	SF	DST	11
☐ 198.	Eagles	PHI	DST	9
☐ 199.	Eric Ebron	PIT	TE	8
☐ 200.	Dawson Knox	BUF	TE	11
☐ 201.	Irv Smith Jr.	MIN	TE	7
☐ 202.	Gerald Everett	LAR	TE	9
☐ 203.	Jimmy Graham	CHI	TE	11
☐ 204.	Justin Tucker	BAL	K	8
☐ 205.	Harrison Butker	KC	K	10
☐ 206.	Wil Lutz	NO	K	6
☐ 207.	Matt Gay	TB	K	13
☐ 208.	Dan Bailey	MIN	K	7
☐ 209.	Robbie Gould	SF	K	11
☐ 210.	Jake Elliott	PHI	K	9
☐ 211.	Matt Prater	DET	K	5
☐ 212.	Ka'imi Fairbairn	HOU	K	8
☐ 213.	Greg Zuerlein	DAL	K	10
☐ 214.	Younghoe Koo	ATL	K	10
☐ 215.	Jason Myers	SEA	K	6
☐ 216.	Drew Lock	DEN	QB	8
☐ 217.	Sam Darnold	NYJ	QB	11
☐ 218.	Derek Carr	LV	QB	6
☐ 219.	Dwayne Haskins Jr.	WAS	QB	8
☐ 220.	Teddy Bridgewater	CAR	QB	13
☐ 221.	Rashaad Penny	SEA	RB	6
☐ 222.	Jerick McKinnon	SF	RB	11
☐ 223.	Malcolm Brown	LAR	RB	9
☐ 224.	Dare Ogunbowale	TB	RB	13
☐ 225.	DeeJay Dallas	SEA	RB	6
☐ 226.	Eno Benjamin	ARI	RB	8
☐ 227.	Anthony McFarland Jr.	PIT	RB	8
☐ 228.	DeAndre Washington	KC	RB	10
☐ 229.	Ryquell Armstead	JAC	RB	7
☐ 230.	Joshua Kelley	LAC	RB	10
☐ 231.	Tyler Johnson	TB	WR	13
☐ 232.	Jalen Reagor	PHI	WR	9
☐ 233.	Josh Reynolds	LAR	WR	9
☐ 234.	Devin Funchess	GB	WR	5
☐ 235.	Chris Conley	JAC	WR	7
☐ 236.	Kenny Stills	HOU	WR	8
☐ 237.	Adam Humphries	TEN	WR	7
☐ 238.	Michael Pittman Jr.	IND	WR	7
☐ 239.	Mohamed Sanu Sr.	NE	WR	6
☐ 240.	Will Dissly	SEA	TE	6

Rank	Player	Team	Pos	Bye
☐ 241.	O.J. Howard	TB	TE	13
☐ 242.	Tyler Eifert	JAC	TE	7
☐ 243.	Darren Fells	HOU	TE	8
☐ 244.	C.J. Uzomah	CIN	TE	9
☐ 245.	Ian Thomas	CAR	TE	13
☐ 246.	Albert Wilson	MIA	WR	11
☐ 247.	Phillip Dorsett	SEA	WR	6
☐ 248.	Mecole Hardman	KC	WR	10
☐ 249.	Tee Higgins	CIN	WR	9
☐ 250.	KJ Hamler	DEN	WR	8
☐ 251.	Steven Sims Jr.	WAS	WR	8
☐ 252.	Dede Westbrook	JAC	WR	7
☐ 253.	Justice Hill	BAL	RB	8
☐ 254.	Royce Freeman	DEN	RB	8
☐ 255.	Benny Snell Jr.	PIT	RB	8
☐ 256.	Damien Harris	NE	RB	6
☐ 257.	Dion Lewis	NYG	RB	11
☐ 258.	Chris Thompson	JAC	RB	7
☐ 259.	Bills	BUF	DST	11
☐ 260.	Packers	GB	DST	5
☐ 261.	Buccaneers	TB	DST	13
☐ 262.	Cardinals	ARI	DST	8
☐ 263.	Greg Olsen	SEA	TE	6
☐ 264.	Jordan Akins	HOU	TE	8
☐ 265.	Vance McDonald	PIT	TE	8
☐ 266.	Josh Oliver	JAC	TE	7
☐ 267.	Cole Kmet	CHI	TE	11
☐ 268.	Ryan Griffin	NYJ	TE	11
☐ 269.	Logan Thomas	WAS	TE	8
☐ 270.	Alshon Jeffery	PHI	WR	9
☐ 271.	Zach Pascal	IND	WR	7
☐ 272.	Kendrick Bourne	SF	WR	11
☐ 273.	Tre'Quan Smith	NO	WR	6
☐ 274.	Antonio Gandy-Golden	WAS	WR	8
☐ 275.	J.J. Arcega-Whiteside	PHI	WR	9
☐ 276.	Bisi Johnson	MIN	WR	7
☐ 277.	Devin Duvernay	BAL	WR	8
☐ 278.	Andy Isabella	ARI	WR	8
☐ 279.	Justin Herbert	LAC	QB	10
☐ 280.	Ryan Fitzpatrick	MIA	QB	11

O.J. Howard

TOP 240 FANTASY with IDPs

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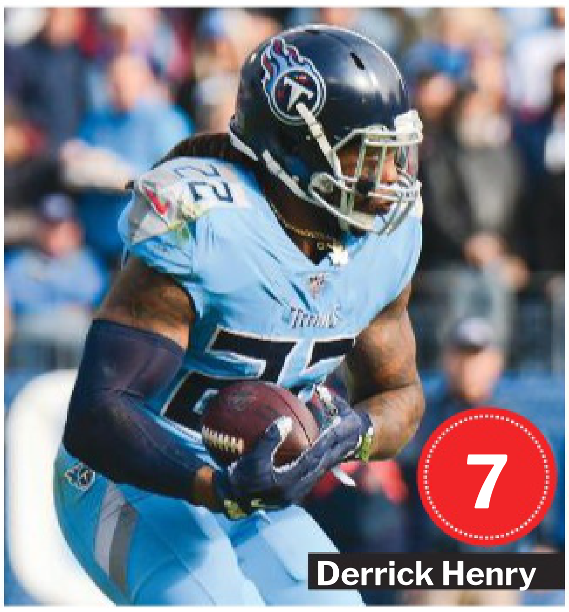
5

Ezekiel Elliott


7

Derrick Henry

Rank	Player	Team	Pos	Bye
☐ 1.	Christian McCaffrey	CAR	RB	13
☐ 2.	Saquon Barkley	NYG	RB	11
☐ 3.	Alvin Kamara	NO	RB	6
☐ 4.	Dalvin Cook	MIN	RB	7
☐ 5.	Ezekiel Elliott	DAL	RB	10
☐ 6.	Michael Thomas	NO	WR	6
☐ 7.	Derrick Henry	TEN	RB	7
☐ 8.	Leonard Fournette	JAC	RB	7
☐ 9.	Tyreek Hill	KC	WR	10
☐ 10.	Davante Adams	GB	WR	5
☐ 11.	Travis Kelce	KC	TE	10
☐ 12.	Nick Chubb	CLE	RB	9
☐ 13.	Austin Ekeler	LAC	RB	10
☐ 14.	Chris Godwin	TB	WR	13
☐ 15.	Mike Evans	TB	WR	13
☐ 16.	Julio Jones	ATL	WR	10
☐ 17.	Josh Jacobs	LV	RB	6
☐ 18.	Miles Sanders	PHI	RB	9
☐ 19.	Joe Mixon	CIN	RB	9
☐ 20.	Aaron Jones	GB	RB	5
☐ 21.	George Kittle	SF	TE	11
☐ 22.	DeAndre Hopkins	ARI	WR	8
☐ 23.	Lamar Jackson	BAL	QB	8
☐ 24.	Clyde Edwards-Helaire	KC	RB	10
☐ 25.	Jonathan Taylor	IND	RB	7
☐ 26.	Robert Woods	LAR	WR	9
☐ 27.	Amari Cooper	DAL	WR	10
☐ 28.	Kenny Golladay	DET	WR	5
☐ 29.	Allen Robinson II	CHI	WR	11
☐ 30.	Odell Beckham Jr.	CLE	WR	9
☐ 31.	Patrick Mahomes	KC	QB	10
☐ 32.	Mark Andrews	BAL	TE	8
☐ 33.	James Conner	PIT	RB	8
☐ 34.	Kenyan Drake	ARI	RB	8
☐ 35.	Le'Veon Bell	NYJ	RB	11
☐ 36.	Zach Ertz	PHI	TE	9
☐ 37.	Melvin Gordon III	DEN	RB	8
☐ 38.	Darius Leonard	IND	LB	7
☐ 39.	Bobby Wagner	SEA	LB	6
☐ 40.	Todd Gurley II	ATL	RB	10
☐ 41.	D'Andre Swift	DET	RB	5
☐ 42.	Tyler Lockett	SEA	WR	6
☐ 43.	Cooper Kupp	LAR	WR	9
☐ 44.	Adam Thielen	MIN	WR	7
☐ 45.	Calvin Ridley	ATL	WR	10
☐ 46.	T.Y. Hilton	IND	WR	7
☐ 47.	David Montgomery	CHI	RB	11
☐ 48.	Devin Singletary	BUF	RB	11
☐ 49.	Cam Akers	LAR	RB	9
☐ 50.	David Johnson	HOU	RB	8
☐ 51.	J.K. Dobbins	BAL	RB	8
☐ 52.	Chris Carson	SEA	RB	6
☐ 53.	Courtland Sutton	DEN	WR	8
☐ 54.	Michael Gallup	DAL	WR	10
☐ 55.	DJ Moore	CAR	WR	13
☐ 56.	Tyler Boyd	CIN	WR	9
☐ 57.	Darren Waller	LV	TE	6
☐ 58.	Evan Engram	NYG	TE	11
☐ 59.	Hunter Henry	LAC	TE	10
☐ 60.	A.J. Green	CIN	WR	9
☐ 61.	JuJu Smith-Schuster	PIT	WR	8
☐ 62.	Brandin Cooks	HOU	WR	8
☐ 63.	Keenan Allen	LAC	WR	10
☐ 64.	Danielle Hunter	MIN	DE	7
☐ 65.	Joey Bosa	LAC	DE	10
☐ 66.	Myles Garrett	CLE	DE	9
☐ 67.	Deion Jones	ATL	LB	10
☐ 68.	Cory Littleton	LV	LB	6
☐ 69.	Joe Schobert	JAC	LB	7
☐ 70.	Dak Prescott	DAL	QB	10
☐ 71.	Terry McLaurin	WAS	WR	8
☐ 72.	Deebo Samuel	SF	WR	11
☐ 73.	A.J. Brown	TEN	WR	7
☐ 74.	DK Metcalf	SEA	WR	6
☐ 75.	DJ Chark Jr.	JAC	WR	7
☐ 76.	Jarvis Landry	CLE	WR	9
☐ 77.	Stefon Diggs	BUF	WR	11
☐ 78.	Russell Wilson	SEA	QB	6
☐ 79.	James White	NE	RB	6
☐ 80.	Kareem Hunt	CLE	RB	9
☐ 81.	Raheem Mostert	SF	RB	11
☐ 82.	Deshaun Watson	HOU	QB	8
☐ 83.	Marquise Brown	BAL	WR	8
☐ 84.	Will Fuller V	HOU	WR	8
☐ 85.	Sterling Shepard	NYG	WR	11
☐ 86.	Jamison Crowder	NYJ	WR	11
☐ 87.	DeVante Parker	MIA	WR	11
☐ 88.	Kyler Murray	ARI	QB	8
☐ 89.	Tom Brady	TB	QB	13
☐ 90.	Aaron Donald	LAR	DE	9
☐ 91.	Cameron Jordan	NO	DE	6
☐ 92.	Derwin James	LAC	S	10
☐ 93.	Fred Warner	SF	LB	11
☐ 94.	Christian Kirksey	GB	LB	5
☐ 95.	Calais Campbell	BAL	DE	8
☐ 96.	J.J. Watt	HOU	DE	8
☐ 97.	Melvin Ingram III	LAC	DE	10
☐ 98.	Matt Breida	MIA	RB	11

Top 65 IDPs

RK	PLAYER	TEAM	POS	BYE
1.	Darius Leonard	LB	IND	7
2.	Bobby Wagner	LB	SEA	6
3.	Danielle Hunter	DE	MIN	7
4.	Joey Bosa	DE	LAC	10
5.	Myles Garrett	DE	CLE	9
6.	Deion Jones	LB	ATL	10
7.	Cory Littleton	LB	LV	6
8.	Joe Schobert	LB	JAC	7
9.	Aaron Donald	DE	LAR	9
10.	Cameron Jordan	DE	NO	6
11.	Derwin James	S	LAC	10
12.	Fred Warner	LB	SF	11
13.	Christian Kirksey	LB	GB	5
14.	Calais Campbell	DE	BAL	8
15.	J.J. Watt	DE	HOU	8
16.	Melvin Ingram III	DE	LAC	10
17.	Budda Baker	S	ARI	8
18.	Jamal Adams	S	NYJ	11
19.	Jordan Hicks	LB	ARI	8
20.	Devin White	LB	TB	13
21.	Blake Martinez	LB	NYG	11
22.	Roquan Smith	LB	CHI	11
23.	Jamie Collins Sr.	LB	DET	5
24.	Jaylon Smith	LB	DAL	10
25.	DeMarcus Lawrence	DE	DAL	10
26.	DeForest Buckner	DT	IND	7
27.	Cameron Heyward	DE	PIT	8
28.	Nick Bosa	DE	SF	11
29.	Landon Collins	S	WAS	8
30.	Jordan Poyer	S	BUF	11
31.	Tracy Walker	S	DET	5
32.	John Johnson III	S	LAR	9
33.	Kwon Alexander	LB	SF	11
34.	Tremaine Edmunds	LB	BUF	11
35.	Lavonte David	LB	TB	13
36.	Zach Cunningham	LB	HOU	8

Elliott: Bruce Schwartzman;
Henry: Matt Hernandez

Rank	Player	Team	Pos	Bye
☐ 99.	Ke'Shawn Vaughn	TB	RB	13
☐ 100.	Tarik Cohen	CHI	RB	11
☐ 101.	Mark Ingram II	BAL	RB	8
☐ 102.	Sony Michel	NE	RB	6
☐ 103.	Drew Brees	NO	QB	6
☐ 104.	Jerry Jeudy	DEN	WR	8
☐ 105.	Emmanuel Sanders	NO	WR	6
☐ 106.	DeSean Jackson	PHI	WR	9
☐ 107.	Tyrell Williams	LV	WR	6
☐ 108.	Budda Baker	ARI	S	8
☐ 109.	Jamal Adams	NYJ	S	11
☐ 110.	Jordan Hicks	ARI	LB	8
☐ 111.	Devin White	TB	LB	13
☐ 112.	Blake Martinez	NYG	LB	11
☐ 113.	Ronald Jones II	TB	RB	13
☐ 114.	Derrius Guice	WAS	RB	8
☐ 115.	Jordan Howard	MIA	RB	11
☐ 116.	Tevin Coleman	SF	RB	11
☐ 117.	Julian Edelman	NE	WR	6
☐ 118.	John Brown	BUF	WR	11
☐ 119.	CeeDee Lamb	DAL	WR	10
☐ 120.	Christian Kirk	ARI	WR	8
☐ 121.	Marvin Jones Jr.	DET	WR	5
☐ 122.	Josh Allen	BUF	QB	11
☐ 123.	Matt Ryan	ATL	QB	10
☐ 124.	Carson Wentz	PHI	QB	9
☐ 125.	Aaron Rodgers	GB	QB	5
☐ 126.	Roquan Smith	CHI	LB	11
☐ 127.	Jamie Collins Sr.	DET	LB	5
☐ 128.	Jaylon Smith	DAL	LB	10
☐ 129.	Phillip Lindsay	DEN	RB	8
☐ 130.	Latavius Murray	NO	RB	6
☐ 131.	Kerryon Johnson	DET	RB	5
☐ 132.	Damien Williams	KC	RB	10
☐ 133.	Hayden Hurst	ATL	TE	10
☐ 134.	Jack Doyle	IND	TE	7
☐ 135.	Tyler Higbee	LAR	TE	9
☐ 136.	Anthony Miller	CHI	WR	11
☐ 137.	Breshad Perriman	NYJ	WR	11
☐ 138.	Diontae Johnson	PIT	WR	8
☐ 139.	Robby Anderson	CAR	WR	13
☐ 140.	Golden Tate	NYG	WR	11
☐ 141.	Parris Campbell	IND	WR	7
☐ 142.	Mike Williams	LAC	WR	10
☐ 143.	Darius Slayton	NYG	WR	11
☐ 144.	DeMarcus Lawrence	DAL	DE	10
☐ 145.	DeForest Buckner	IND	DT	11
☐ 146.	Cameron Heyward	PIT	DE	8
☐ 147.	Nick Bosa	SF	DE	11
☐ 148.	Curtis Samuel	CAR	WR	13
☐ 149.	Preston Williams	MIA	WR	11
☐ 150.	James Washington	PIT	WR	8
☐ 151.	Sammy Watkins	KC	WR	10
☐ 152.	Corey Davis	TEN	WR	7
☐ 153.	Blake Jarwin	DAL	TE	10
☐ 154.	Jared Cook	NO	TE	6
☐ 155.	T.J. Hockenson	DET	TE	5
☐ 156.	Noah Fant	DEN	TE	8
☐ 157.	Rob Gronkowski	TB	TE	13
☐ 158.	Austin Hooper	CLE	TE	9
☐ 159.	Dallas Goedert	PHI	TE	9
☐ 160.	Zack Moss	BUF	RB	11
☐ 161.	Boston Scott	PHI	RB	9
☐ 162.	Nyheim Hines	IND	RB	7
☐ 163.	Darrell Henderson Jr.	LAR	RB	9
☐ 164.	Alexander Mattison	MIN	RB	7
☐ 165.	Henry Ruggs III	LV	WR	6
☐ 166.	Landon Collins	WAS	S	8
☐ 167.	Jordan Poyer	BUF	S	11
☐ 168.	Tracy Walker	DET	S	5
☐ 169.	John Johnson III	LAR	S	9
☐ 170.	Cole Beasley	BUF	WR	11
☐ 171.	Larry Fitzgerald	ARI	WR	8
☐ 172.	Jared Goff	LAR	QB	9
☐ 173.	Matthew Stafford	DET	QB	5
☐ 174.	Ryan Tannehill	TEN	QB	7
☐ 175.	Kelvin Harmon	WAS	WR	8
☐ 176.	Justin Jefferson	MIN	WR	7
☐ 177.	Brandon Aiyuk	SF	WR	11
☐ 178.	Jimmy Garoppolo	SF	QB	11
☐ 179.	Baker Mayfield	CLE	QB	9
☐ 180.	Ben Roethlisberger	PIT	QB	8
☐ 181.	Daniel Jones	NYG	QB	11
☐ 182.	Kwon Alexander	SF	LB	11
☐ 183.	Tremaine Edmunds	BUF	LB	11
☐ 184.	Lavonte David	TB	LB	13
☐ 185.	Zach Cunningham	HOU	LB	8
☐ 186.	Isaiah Simmons	ARI	LB	8
☐ 187.	Kyle Rudolph	MIN	TE	7
☐ 188.	Jonnu Smith	TEN	TE	7
☐ 189.	Jace Sternberger	GB	TE	5
☐ 190.	Chris Herndon	NYJ	TE	11
☐ 191.	Mike Gesicki	MIA	TE	11
☐ 192.	Jamaal Williams	GB	RB	5
☐ 193.	Ito Smith	ATL	RB	10
☐ 194.	Duke Johnson	HOU	RB	8
☐ 195.	Chase Edmonds	ARI	RB	8
☐ 196.	Antonio Gibson	WAS	RB	8
☐ 197.	Tony Pollard	DAL	RB	10
☐ 198.	Shaq Thompson	CAR	LB	13
☐ 199.	Kenneth Murray	LAC	LB	10
☐ 200.	Marlon Mack	IND	RB	7
☐ 201.	Adrian Peterson	WAS	RB	8
☐ 202.	Allen Lazard	GB	WR	5
☐ 203.	Russell Gage	ATL	WR	10
☐ 204.	Denzel Mims	NYJ	WR	11
☐ 205.	Hunter Renfrow	LV	WR	6
☐ 206.	Miles Boykin	BAL	WR	8
☐ 207.	Giovani Bernard	CIN	RB	9
☐ 208.	Jaylen Samuels	PIT	RB	8
☐ 209.	John Ross III	CIN	WR	9
☐ 210.	Randall Cobb	HOU	WR	8
☐ 211.	Kirk Cousins	MIN	QB	7
☐ 212.	Gardner Minshew	JAC	QB	7
☐ 213.	Joe Burrow	CIN	QB	9
☐ 214.	Philip Rivers	IND	QB	7
☐ 215.	Laviska Shenault Jr.	JAC	WR	7
☐ 216.	Danny Amendola	DET	WR	5
☐ 217.	N'Keal Harry	NE	WR	6
☐ 218.	Sam Hubbard	CIN	DE	9
☐ 219.	Carlos Dunlap	CIN	DE	9
☐ 220.	Dee Ford	SF	DE	11
☐ 221.	Chase Young	WAS	DE	8
☐ 222.	Chris Jones	KC	DE	10
☐ 223.	Justin Houston	IND	DE	7
☐ 224.	Leighton Vander Esch	DAL	LB	10
☐ 225.	T.J. Watt	PIT	LB	8
☐ 226.	C.J. Mosley	NYJ	LB	11
☐ 227.	Demario Davis	NO	LB	6
☐ 228.	Eric Kendricks	MIN	LB	7
☐ 229.	Justin Tucker	BAL	K	8
☐ 230.	Harrison Butker	KC	K	10
☐ 231.	Wil Lutz	NO	K	6
☐ 232.	Matt Gay	TB	K	13
☐ 233.	Dan Bailey	MIN	K	7
☐ 234.	Robbie Gould	SF	K	11
☐ 235.	Jake Elliott	PHI	K	9
☐ 236.	Matt Prater	DET	K	5
☐ 237.	Ka'imi Fairbairn	HOU	K	8
☐ 238.	Greg Zuerlein	DAL	K	10
☐ 239.	Younghoe Koo	ATL	K	10
☐ 240.	Jason Myers	SEA	K	6

RK	PLAYER	TEAM	POS	BYE
37.	Isaiah Simmons	LB	ARI	8
38.	Shaq Thompson	LB	CAR	13
39.	Kenneth Murray	LB	LAC	10
40.	Sam Hubbard	DE	CIN	9
41.	Carlos Dunlap	DE	CIN	9
42.	Dee Ford	DE	SF	11
43.	Chase Young	DE	WAS	8
44.	Chris Jones	DE	KC	10
45.	Justin Houston	DE	IND	7
46.	Leighton Vander Esch	LB	DAL	10
47.	T.J. Watt	LB	PIT	8
48.	C.J. Mosley	LB	NYJ	11
49.	Demario Davis	LB	NO	6
50.	Eric Kendricks	LB	MIN	7
51.	Jessie Bates III	S	CIN	9
52.	Harrison Smith	S	MIN	7
53.	Keanu Neal	S	ATL	10
54.	Justin Simmons	S	DEN	8
55.	Jabrill Peppers	S	NYG	11
56.	Tyrann Mathieu	S	KC	10
57.	Malcolm Jenkins	S	NO	6
58.	Taylor Rapp	S	LAR	9
59.	Grady Jarrett	DT	ATL	10
60.	Jason Pierre-Paul	DE	TB	13
61.	Matt Ioannidis	DT	WAS	8
62.	Brandon Graham	DE	PHI	9
63.	Jayon Brown	LB	TEN	7
64.	Devin Bush	LB	PIT	8
65.	Chandler Jones	LB	ARI	8

Darius Leonard

Leonard: Peter Brouillet

QB Rankings

Quarterbacks	Team	Bye
☐ 1. Lamar Jackson	BAL	8
☐ 2. Patrick Mahomes	KC	10
☐ 3. Dak Prescott	DAL	10
☐ 4. Russell Wilson	SEA	6
☐ 5. Deshaun Watson	HOU	8
☐ 6. Kyler Murray	ARI	8
☐ 7. Tom Brady	TB	13
☐ 8. Drew Brees	NO	6
☐ 9. Josh Allen	BUF	11
☐ 10. Matt Ryan	ATL	10
☐ 11. Carson Wentz	PHI	9
☐ 12. Aaron Rodgers	GB	5
☐ 13. Jared Goff	LAR	9
☐ 14. Matthew Stafford	DET	5
☐ 15. Ryan Tannehill	TEN	7
☐ 16. Jimmy Garoppolo	SF	11
☐ 17. Baker Mayfield	CLE	9
☐ 18. Ben Roethlisberger	PIT	8
☐ 19. Daniel Jones	NYG	11
☐ 20. Kirk Cousins	MIN	7
☐ 21. Gardner Minshew II	JAC	7
☐ 22. Joe Burrow	CIN	9
☐ 23. Philip Rivers	IND	7
☐ 24. Drew Lock	DEN	8
☐ 25. Sam Darnold	NYJ	11
☐ 26. Derek Carr	LV	6
☐ 27. Dwayne Haskins Jr.	WAS	8
☐ 28. Teddy Bridgewater	CAR	13
☐ 29. Justin Herbert	LAC	10
☐ 30. Ryan Fitzpatrick	MIA	11
☐ 31. Jarrett Stidham	NE	6
☐ 32. Nick Foles	CHI	11
☐ 33. Mitchell Trubisky	CHI	11
☐ 34. Brian Hoyer	NE	6
☐ 35. Tua Tagovailoa	MIA	11
☐ 36. Tyrod Taylor	LAC	10
☐ 37. Mason Rudolph	PIT	8
☐ 38. Jacoby Brissett	IND	7
☐ 39. Jalen Hurts	PHI	9
☐ 40. Cam Newton	FA	

Average Depth of Throw

At Pro Football Focus, the game analysts are constantly creating new statistical categories in hopes of maximizing the viewing public's understanding of the game. In 2007, they began tracking the depth of each pass. When examining quarterback tendencies, many will refer to yards per attempt, but it's important to realize that "YPA" can be severely distorted by completion percentage and YAC (yards after catch). This is where Average Depth of Throw (aDOT) comes into play. Proven to be significantly more predictable on a year-to-year basis, aDOT tracks only the distance downfield each pass travels before it is complete, incomplete or intercepted. Quarterbacks with high aDOT marks generally take more chances, which will lead to more of the coveted big plays, but also to a lower completion rate and additional interceptions. Quarterbacks with lower aDOT tendencies are more conservative, settling for short completions while avoiding costly turnovers.

Shown here are the top 40 aDOT marks among quarterbacks who dropped back to pass at least 100 times during the 2019 season. To maximize the sample size, playoff data is included.

Rk	Quarterback	Team	DB	aDOT
1.	Matthew Stafford	DET	320	11.4
2.	Jameis Winston	TB	705	10.9
3.	Ryan Tannehill	TEN	405	10.2
4.	Russell Wilson	SEA	690	10.0
5.	Dak Prescott	DAL	639	9.8
6.	Josh Allen	BUF	595	9.7
7.	Ryan Fitzpatrick	MIA	580	9.6
8.	Lamar Jackson	BAL	537	9.6
9.	Jeff Driskel	DET	129	9.3
10.	Aaron Rodgers	GB	704	9.1
11.	Baker Mayfield	CLE	592	9.2
12.	Deshaun Watson	HOU	691	9.1
13.	Dwayne Haskins Jr.	WAS	245	9.1
14.	Philip Rivers	LAC	633	9.0
15.	Eli Manning	NYG	153	9.0
16.	David Blough	DET	194	8.9
17.	Sam Darnold	NYJ	485	8.8
18.	Patrick Mahomes	KC	526	8.7
19.	Matt Ryan	ATL	686	8.7
20.	Andy Dalton	CIN	575	8.6
21.	Kyle Allen	CAR	555	8.6
22.	Carson Wentz	PHI	679	8.5
23.	Josh Rosen	MIA	128	8.5
24.	Nick Foles	JAC	128	8.5
25.	Ryan Finley	CIN	104	8.4
26.	Daniel Jones	NYG	527	8.4
27.	Kirk Cousins	MIN	549	8.3
28.	Mitchell Trubisky	CHI	579	8.3
29.	Jacoby Brissett	IND	506	8.3
30.	Mason Rudolph	PIT	308	8.1
31.	Jared Goff	LAR	662	8.0
32.	Tom Brady	NE	680	8.0
33.	Gardner Minshew II	JAC	556	7.9
34.	Marcus Mariota	TEN	202	7.7
35.	Devlin Hodges	PIT	183	7.6
36.	Kyler Murray	ARI	620	7.6
37.	Matt Moore	KC	100	7.5
38.	Case Keenum	WAS	266	7.3
39.	Joe Flacco	DEN	294	7.1
40.	Drew Lock	DEN	172	7.1

Top 10 Injury Concerns

1. Tom Brady, Tampa Bay Buccaneers Even though Brady seems energized by the prospect of starting over with a new team, a new coach and a new system, it can't be forgotten that he will be 43 at the start of the 2020 season. He didn't miss time in 2019, but his numbers were all down. It's just hard to trust that a 43-year-old can stay healthy when playing against guys who are young enough to be his children.

2. Drew Brees, New Orleans Saints Brees is still one of the best in the game, but he's 41 years old and has taken his share of hits through the years. He suffered a thumb injury last season that needed surgery and caused him to miss five games. Brees' fantasy owners need to make sure they have a solid backup plan in place.

3. Carson Wentz, Philadelphia Eagles For the first time in three years, Wentz started and finished a season. He tore his ACL in December 2017, and it delayed his start the following season. He also suffered a back injury in 2018 that ended that season early. It is promising that he was able to get through 2019, but Wentz should still be considered an injury risk.

4. Matthew Stafford, Detroit Lions After missing 19 games his first two seasons, Stafford started 136 straight. But last season, he played in just eight before a back injury ended his streak and his season. He's 32, which isn't considered old for a quarterback, but fantasy owners should be a little concerned. He's dealt with plenty of hand and other soft-tissue injuries over the years, but he had been pretty durable until last season.

5. Ben Roethlisberger, Pittsburgh Steelers Roethlisberger is 38 years old and has suffered plenty of injuries over the past few years. In 2019, he suffered a season-ending elbow injury in Week 2 that required surgery. He's also dealt with knee and ankle injuries throughout his career. At this point, it's going to be hard to trust that he can stay healthy for 16 games, especially when he takes the number of hits that he does.

6. Daniel Jones, New York Giants It's hard to label someone as an injury concern after just his rookie season, but Jones wasn't the initial starter and still managed to miss time. He suffered a sprained ankle late in the season that cost him two games. It's a small sample size, but fantasy owners should be a bit wary when it comes to trusting that Jones will play all 16 games.

7. Teddy Bridgewater, Carolina Panthers A first-round pick in 2014 by Minnesota, Bridgewater suffered a horrific knee injury in August 2016 that put his career in jeopardy. Almost four years removed from it, Bridgewater is the new starter in Carolina after a two-year stint in New Orleans as Drew Brees' backup. While his fantasy outlook has certainly improved, the significance of his injury does create some risk.

8. Nick Foles, Chicago Bears Foles has had an interesting past few years, including leading the Eagles to a win in Super Bowl LII and then signing a big contract with Jacksonville following the 2018 season. Last season, Foles broke his collarbone in Week 1 and ended up making just four starts. He returned in Week 11 and was then benched in Week 13. He was traded to the Bears in late March and is expected to battle Mitchell Trubisky for the starting job.

9. Mitchell Trubisky, Chicago Bears As a whole, Trubisky has been underwhelming in three seasons as the starter. He suffered a shoulder injury in Week 4 last season, and while he missed only one game, he underwent surgery after it was over. Trubisky also dealt with a hip pointer that likely affected his play. The competition between Trubisky and Nick Foles may simply come down to whoever is healthy.

10. Cam Newton, free agent As of late May, Newton was still looking for a team, although that will likely change by the time the 2020 season begins. He missed nearly all of the 2019 season and has a history of foot and shoulder injuries. When healthy, he has the ability to be a top-tier quarterback, but given his injury history, many teams may be skittish on taking a chance on him. Fantasy owners should also be wary.

Peter Brouillet

RB Rankings

Running Backs	Team	Bye
☐ 1. **Christian McCaffrey**	CAR	13
☐ 2. **Saquon Barkley**	NYG	11
☐ 3. **Alvin Kamara**	NO	6
☐ 4. **Dalvin Cook**	MIN	7
☐ 5. **Ezekiel Elliott**	DAL	10
☐ 6. **Derrick Henry**	TEN	7
☐ 7. **Leonard Fournette**	JAC	7
☐ 8. **Nick Chubb**	CLE	9
☐ 9. **Austin Ekeler**	LAC	10
☐ 10. **Josh Jacobs**	LV	6
☐ 11. **Miles Sanders**	PHI	9
☐ 12. **Joe Mixon**	CIN	9
☐ 13. **Aaron Jones**	GB	5
☐ 14. **Clyde Edwards-Helaire**	KC	10
☐ 15. **Jonathan Taylor**	IND	7
☐ 16. **James Conner**	PIT	8
☐ 17. **Kenyan Drake**	ARI	8
☐ 18. **Le'Veon Bell**	NYJ	11
☐ 19. **Melvin Gordon III**	DEN	8
☐ 20. **Todd Gurley II**	ATL	10
☐ 21. **D'Andre Swift**	DET	5
☐ 22. **David Montgomery**	CHI	11
☐ 23. **Devin Singletary**	BUF	11
☐ 24. **Cam Akers**	LAR	9
☐ 25. **David Johnson**	HOU	8
☐ 26. **J.K. Dobbins**	BAL	8
☐ 27. **Chris Carson**	SEA	6
☐ 28. **James White**	NE	6
☐ 29. **Kareem Hunt**	CLE	9
☐ 30. **Raheem Mostert**	SF	11
☐ 31. **Matt Breida**	MIA	11
☐ 32. **Ke'Shawn Vaughn**	TB	13
☐ 33. **Tarik Cohen**	CHI	11
☐ 34. **Mark Ingram II**	BAL	8
☐ 35. **Sony Michel**	NE	6
☐ 36. **Ronald Jones**	TB	13
☐ 37. **Derrius Guice**	WAS	8
☐ 38. **Jordan Howard**	MIA	11
☐ 39. **Tevin Coleman**	SF	11
☐ 40. **Phillip Lindsay**	DEN	8

Running Backs	Team	Bye
☐ 41. **Latavius Murray**	NO	6
☐ 42. **Kerryon Johnson**	DET	5
☐ 43. **Damien Williams**	KC	10
☐ 44. **Zack Moss**	BUF	11
☐ 45. **Boston Scott**	PHI	9
☐ 46. **Nyheim Hines**	IND	7
☐ 47. **Darrell Henderson Jr.**	LAR	9
☐ 48. **Alexander Mattison**	MIN	7
☐ 49. **Jamaal Williams**	GB	5
☐ 50. **Ito Smith**	ATL	10
☐ 51. **Duke Johnson**	HOU	8
☐ 52. **Chase Edmonds**	ARI	8
☐ 53. **Antonio Gibson**	WAS	8
☐ 54. **Tony Pollard**	DAL	10
☐ 55. **Marlon Mack**	IND	7
☐ 56. **Adrian Peterson**	WAS	8
☐ 57. **Giovani Bernard**	CIN	9
☐ 58. **Jaylen Samuels**	PIT	8
☐ 59. **Frank Gore**	NYJ	11
☐ 60. **Darrynton Evans**	TEN	7
☐ 61. **Justin Jackson**	LAC	10
☐ 62. **Carlos Hyde**	SEA	6
☐ 63. **Lynn Bowden Jr.**	LV	6
☐ 64. **Rex Burkhead**	NE	6
☐ 65. **Jalen Richard**	LV	6
☐ 66. **AJ Dillon**	GB	5
☐ 67. **Rashaad Penny**	SEA	6
☐ 68. **Jerick McKinnon**	SF	11
☐ 69. **Malcolm Brown**	LAR	9
☐ 70. **Dare Ogubowale**	TB	13
☐ 71. **DeeJay Dallas**	SEA	6
☐ 72. **Eno Benjamin**	ARI	8
☐ 73. **Anthony McFarland Jr.**	PIT	8
☐ 74. **DeAndre Washington**	KC	10
☐ 75. **Ryquell Armstead**	JAC	7
☐ 76. **Joshua Kelley**	LAC	10
☐ 77. **Kyle Juszczyk**	SF	11
☐ 78. **Justice Hill**	BAL	8
☐ 79. **Royce Freeman**	DEN	8
☐ 80. **Benny Snell Jr.**	PIT	8

Workload Watch

Total Touches, 3-year vs. 2-year

Total Touches, 3-yr	TCH	TPG	GP
1. Ezekiel Elliott	1,004	24.5	41
2. Christian McCaffrey	926	19.3	48
3. Todd Gurley II	912	20.7	44
4. Joe Mixon	801	18.2	44
5. Leonard Fournette	800	22.2	36
6. Melvin Gordon III	771	19.3	40
7. Derrick Henry	738	15.7	47
8. Carlos Hyde	736	16.0	46
9. Alvin Kamara	728	16.2	45
10. Le'Veon Bell	717	23.9	30
11. Jordan Howard	698	16.6	42
12. Mark Ingram II	675	15.7	43
13. LeSean McCoy	670	15.6	43
14. Adrian Peterson	666	16.2	41
15. Chris Carson	638	19.3	33

Total Touches, 2-yr	TCH	TPG	GP
1. Ezekiel Elliott	736	23.7	31
2. Christian McCaffrey	729	22.8	32
3. Saquon Barkley	621	21.4	29
4. Joe Mixon	593	19.8	30
5. Chris Carson	582	20.1	29
6. Todd Gurley II	569	19.6	29
7. Derrick Henry	551	17.8	31
8. Nick Chubb	546	17.1	32
9. Alvin Kamara	527	18.2	29
10. Adrian Peterson	499	16.1	31
11. Leonard Fournette	496	21.6	23
12. Phillip Lindsay	486	15.7	31
13. Dalvin Cook	476	19.0	25
14. Sony Michel	475	16.4	29
15. Marlon Mack	473	18.2	26

Dalvin Cook

Top 10 Injury Concerns

1. Dalvin Cook, Minnesota Vikings Cook suffered chest and shoulder injuries toward the end of last season, and while he missed only two games, he left others early and was a game-time decision a few times. Cook is an elite running back, but he needs to stay healthy. The 14 games he played were the most in his three-year career, but it seems that he cannot make it through a full season.

2. Leonard Fournette, Jacksonville Jaguars In the past, Fournette has missed plenty of time because of soft-tissue injuries. He did make it through the 2019 season without missing time until the very end, but it's still hard to trust Fournette to be available every week. He is only 25, but fantasy owners should just be prepared for the fact that he may not play all 16 games.

3. James Conner, Pittsburgh Steelers In his three years in the NFL, Conner has yet to play all 16 games. Last season, it was a shoulder injury that cost him five games. Once he returned, he suffered a thigh injury and missed another game. He also had a quad injury that limited him before the shoulder injury. Conner has proven that he can be a solid running back, if only he can stay healthy.

4. Todd Gurley II, Atlanta Falcons Toward the end of 2018, it seemed that there was an issue with Gurley's knee. Fantasy owners never found out exactly what the issue was, but he was not the same player in 2019. He missed only one game, with a thigh/quad issue, but he didn't top 100 rushing yards all season. The change of scenery will be good for Gurley, but he is still an injury risk.

5. David Johnson, Houston Texans Johnson started the 2019 season as the main running back in Arizona, but after dealing with back and ankle injuries, he lost his job. Technically, he missed only two games, but that doesn't include the week where he was active and never saw the field. He has been healthy in the past, but after 2019, Johnson should be seen as an injury concern.

6. Chris Carson, Seattle Seahawks Carson fractured his hip in Week 17 but did not need surgery. It was a disappointing ending to an otherwise productive season (1,230 rushing yards), and it's something to keep in mind.

7. Matt Breida, Miami Dolphins Breida dealt with ankle injuries throughout the second half of the season. He missed time in 2018 as well, and while Breida tried to play through the injuries, he wasn't successful. He's now in Miami, where he could see plenty of touches. Still, his injury history can't be ignored.

8. Derrius Guice, Washington Redskins Ahead of the 2018 season, Guice tore his ACL and did not play that season. In 2019, he played one game before tearing his meniscus and having surgery. He returned in Week 11, played four games and then saw his season end with a sprained MCL. Given the history of knee injuries, it's hard to trust Guice to play anywhere close to a full season.

9. Kerryon Johnson, Detroit Lions After injuring his knee in Week 7, Johnson was placed on injured reserve and underwent surgery. He did return for the end of the regular season, but after missing nearly half the number of games (14) over the past two seasons, he cannot be counted on to play a full schedule. The Lions also drafted D'Andre Swift, so Johnson is likely looking at a reduced workload.

10. Rashaad Penny, Seattle Seahawks Penny tore his ACL in Week 14 and had surgery. It reportedly wasn't a clean tear, which makes the recovery more difficult. His availability for the start of the season is no guarantee, and the Seahawks signed Carlos Hyde and drafted DeeJay Dallas as potential options.

WR Rankings

Wide Receivers	Team	Bye
☐ 1. Michael Thomas	NO	6
☐ 2. Tyreek Hill	KC	10
☐ 3. Davante Adams	GB	5
☐ 4. Chris Godwin	TB	13
☐ 5. Mike Evans	TB	13
☐ 6. Julio Jones	ATL	10
☐ 7. DeAndre Hopkins	ARI	8
☐ 8. Robert Woods	LAR	9
☐ 9. Amari Cooper	DAL	10
☐ 10. Kenny Golladay	DET	5
☐ 11. Allen Robinson	CHI	11
☐ 12. Odell Beckham Jr.	CLE	9
☐ 13. Tyler Lockett	SEA	6
☐ 14. Cooper Kupp	LAR	9
☐ 15. Adam Thielen	MIN	7
☐ 16. Calvin Ridley	ATL	10
☐ 17. T.Y. Hilton	IND	7
☐ 18. Courtland Sutton	DEN	8
☐ 19. Michael Gallup	DAL	10
☐ 20. DJ Moore	CAR	13
☐ 21. Tyler Boyd	CIN	9
☐ 22. A.J. Green	CIN	9
☐ 23. JuJu Smith-Schuster	PIT	8
☐ 24. Brandin Cooks	HOU	8
☐ 25. Keenan Allen	LAC	10
☐ 26. Terry McLaurin	WAS	8
☐ 27. Deebo Samuel	SF	11
☐ 28. A.J. Brown	TEN	7
☐ 29. DK Metcalf	SEA	6
☐ 30. DJ Chark Jr.	JAC	7
☐ 31. Jarvis Landry	CLE	9
☐ 32. Stefon Diggs	BUF	11
☐ 33. Marquise Brown	BAL	8
☐ 34. Will Fuller V	HOU	8
☐ 35. Sterling Shepard	NYG	11
☐ 36. Jamison Crowder	NYJ	11
☐ 37. DeVante Parker	MIA	11
☐ 38. Jerry Jeudy	DEN	8
☐ 39. Emmanuel Sanders	NO	6
☐ 40. DeSean Jackson	PHI	9
☐ 41. Tyrell Williams	LV	6
☐ 42. Julian Edelman	NE	6
☐ 43. John Brown	BUF	11
☐ 44. CeeDee Lamb	DAL	10
☐ 45. Christian Kirk	ARI	8
☐ 46. Marvin Jones Jr.	DET	5
☐ 47. Anthony Miller	CHI	11
☐ 48. Breshad Perriman	NYJ	11
☐ 49. Diontae Johnson	PIT	8
☐ 50. Robby Anderson	CAR	13
☐ 51. Golden Tate	NYG	11
☐ 52. Parris Campbell	IND	7
☐ 53. Mike Williams	LAC	10
☐ 54. Darius Slayton	NYG	11
☐ 55. Curtis Samuel	CAR	13
☐ 56. Preston Williams	MIA	11
☐ 57. James Washington	PIT	8
☐ 58. Sammy Watkins	KC	10
☐ 59. Corey Davis	TEN	7
☐ 60. Henry Ruggs III	LV	6
☐ 61. Cole Beasley	BUF	11
☐ 62. Larry Fitzgerald	ARI	8
☐ 63. Kelvin Harmon	WAS	8
☐ 64. Justin Jefferson	MIN	7
☐ 65. Brandon Aiyuk	SF	11
☐ 66. Allen Lazard	GB	5
☐ 67. Russell Gage	ATL	10
☐ 68. Denzel Mims	NYJ	11
☐ 69. Hunter Renfrow	LV	6
☐ 70. Miles Boykin	BAL	8
☐ 71. John Ross	CIN	9
☐ 72. Randall Cobb	HOU	8
☐ 73. Laviska Shenault Jr.	JAC	7
☐ 74. Danny Amendola	DET	5
☐ 75. N'Keal Harry	NE	6
☐ 76. Tyler Johnson	TB	13
☐ 77. Jalen Reagor	PHI	9
☐ 78. Josh Reynolds	LAR	9
☐ 79. Devin Funchess	GB	5
☐ 80. Chris Conley	JAC	7
☐ 81. Kenny Stills	HOU	8
☐ 82. Adam Humphries	TEN	7
☐ 83. Michael Pittman Jr.	IND	7
☐ 84. Mohamed Sanu Sr.	NE	6
☐ 85. Albert Wilson	MIA	11
☐ 86. Phillip Dorsett	SEA	6
☐ 87. Mecole Hardman	KC	10
☐ 88. Tee Higgins	CIN	9
☐ 89. KJ Hamler	DEN	8
☐ 90. Steven Sims Jr.	WAS	8

Average Depth of Target

Tracked by the game analysts at Pro Football Focus, Average Depth of Target (aDOT) is a better method of tracking the way NFL pass catchers are utilized. Basically an improved version of the popular and mainstream yards per reception (YPR) statistic, aDOT removes volatile YAC (yards after catch) from the equation, instead focusing only on the average distance the player is downfield on each target. Because they're analyzing targets and not receptions, the sample nearly doubles in size, which is key in developing predictable statistics. This season, when your leaguemates are gushing over Joe Schmo's 23.5 YPR thanks to one fluky bubble screen gone right, you'll see his 5.0 aDOT and know he's not the deep threat he appears to be.

Shown here are the top 20 and bottom 20 aDOT marks from the 2019 season. Only wide receivers with 40-plus targets are shown, and playoff data is included.

Top 10 Injury Concerns

1. Tyreek Hill, Kansas City Chiefs Hill played in only 12 games in 2019 due to a clavicle injury early and then a hamstring injury later in the season. He is still young (26) and has not had a lot of other injuries through his career, but any hamstring injury for a player who relies heavily on speed is concerning.

2. Adam Thielen, Minnesota Vikings After pulling a hamstring in Week 7, he missed the next game and then re-aggravated the injury upon his return. He didn't return again until Week 15 and clearly wasn't the same player.

3. T.Y. Hilton, Indianapolis Colts Hilton missed six games last season because of a quad injury and later a calf injury. He'll have a new quarterback in Philip Rivers, so a rebound is possible, but be wary of any soft-tissue issues.

4. A.J. Green, Cincinnati Bengals Green sat out all of 2019 because of various injuries (some of which were never disclosed) and reportedly because he wanted more money. He still doesn't have the contract he wants, and he still has a history of being injured. At 32, he is certainly no lock to play 16 games.

5. JuJu Smith-Schuster, Pittsburgh Steelers After suffering a concussion and a knee injury in Week 11, Smith-Schuster missed four games. The injuries combined with Ben Roethlisberger's own absence made Smith-Schuster one of the biggest fantasy disappointments of the 2019 season.

6. Brandin Cooks, Houston Texans His production took a dip last season, and he's also suffered at least five known concussions. He missed two games last season as a direct result, and this is certainly an issue to keep an eye on.

7. Will Fuller V, Houston Texans Fuller has missed five or more games each of the past three seasons, and he underwent sports hernia surgery in the offseason. Between his injury history and the Texans' crowded wide receiver room, he is a boom-or-bust fantasy option for 2020.

8. DeSean Jackson, Philadelphia Eagles He has a history of concussions and played in just three games last season before surgery for a core-muscle injury. Jackson hasn't played a full season since 2013.

9. Preston Williams, Miami Dolphins Williams tore his ACL in Week 9. Coming back from ACL injuries is often tricky, so Williams might be a great fantasy option or a player who is not ready for the start of the season.

10. Sammy Watkins, Kansas City Chiefs Watkins seemingly gets injured every year. In 2019, it was a hamstring injury that cost him a couple of games. Prior to that, he had been sidelined due to numerous foot issues and other hamstring pulls. Fantasy owners should expect him to miss some time in 2020.

Wide Receiver Top 20
(min 40 targets)

Rk	Wide Receiver	Team	Targets	aDOT
1.	Breshad Perriman	TB	65	18.78
2.	Mike Williams	LAC	85	18.27
3.	Ted Ginn Jr.	NO	55	16.96
4.	M. Valdes-Scantling	GB	55	16.56
5.	Kenny Golladay	DET	113	16.19
6.	James Washington	PIT	77	15.91
7.	Robby Anderson	NYJ	92	15.76
8.	Mike Evans	TB	114	15.67
9.	Stefon Diggs	MIN	99	15.60
10.	Phillip Dorsett	NE	60	15.45
11.	John Ross	CIN	55	15.27
12.	Curtis Samuel	CAR	103	14.78
13.	DeVante Parker	MIA	119	14.73
14.	Chris Conley	JAC	88	14.65
15.	Allen Lazard	GB	55	14.65
16.	John Brown	BUF	122	14.58
17.	Preston Williams	MIA	59	14.58
18.	Terry McLaurin	WAS	91	14.57
19.	Brandin Cooks	LAR	67	14.49
20.	Will Fuller V	HOU	78	14.44

Wide Receiver Bottom 20
(min 40 targets)

Rk	Wide Receiver	Team	Targets	aDOT
103.	Willie Snead IV	BAL	53	8.57
104.	Geronimo Allison	GB	58	8.47
105.	Robert Woods	LAR	129	8.42
106.	DaeSean Hamilton	DEN	48	8.33
107.	Michael Thomas	NO	188	8.21
108.	Jamison Crowder	NYJ	118	8.07
109.	Larry Fitzgerald	ARI	104	8.01
110.	Mohamed Sanu Sr.	ATL/NE	88	7.99
111.	Cole Beasley	BUF	105	7.85
112.	Deebo Samuel	SF	94	7.85
113.	Steven Sims Jr.	WAS	52	7.73
114.	Greg Ward	PHI	44	7.59
115.	Adam Humphries	TEN	52	7.29
116.	Cooper Kupp	LAR	132	7.28
117.	Russell Gage	ATL	69	7.23
118.	Hunter Renfrow	OAK	67	7.21
119.	Dede Westbrook	JAC	97	7.20
120.	Trey Quinn	WAS	44	7.05
121.	Albert Wilson	MIA	61	5.43
122.	Isaiah McKenzie	BUF	43	4.37

W.E. Smith

TE Rankings

	Tight Ends	Team	Bye
☐	1. **Travis Kelce**	KC	10
☐	2. **George Kittle**	SF	11
☐	3. **Mark Andrews**	BAL	8
☐	4. **Zach Ertz**	PHI	9
☐	5. **Darren Waller**	LV	6
☐	6. **Evan Engram**	NYG	11
☐	7. **Hunter Henry**	LAC	10
☐	8. **Hayden Hurst**	ATL	10
☐	9. **Jack Doyle**	IND	7
☐	10. **Tyler Higbee**	LAR	9
☐	11. **Blake Jarwin**	DAL	10
☐	12. **Jared Cook**	NO	6
☐	13. **T.J. Hockenson**	DET	5
☐	14. **Noah Fant**	DEN	8
☐	15. **Rob Gronkowski**	TB	13
☐	16. **Austin Hooper**	CLE	9
☐	17. **Dallas Goedert**	PHI	9
☐	18. **Kyle Rudolph**	MIN	7
☐	19. **Jonnu Smith**	TEN	7
☐	20. **Jace Sternberger**	GB	5
☐	21. **Chris Herndon**	NYJ	11
☐	22. **Mike Gesicki**	MIA	11
☐	23. **Eric Ebron**	PIT	8
☐	24. **Dawson Knox**	BUF	11
☐	25. **Irv Smith Jr.**	MIN	7
☐	26. **Gerald Everett**	LAR	9
☐	27. **Jimmy Graham**	CHI	11
☐	28. **Will Dissly**	SEA	6
☐	29. **O.J. Howard**	TB	13
☐	30. **Tyler Eifert**	JAC	7
☐	31. **Darren Fells**	HOU	8
☐	32. **C.J. Uzomah**	CIN	9
☐	33. **Ian Thomas**	CAR	13
☐	34. **Greg Olsen**	SEA	6
☐	35. **Jordan Akins**	HOU	8
☐	36. **Vance McDonald**	PIT	8
☐	37. **Josh Oliver**	JAC	7
☐	38. **Cole Kmet**	CHI	11
☐	39. **Ryan Griffin**	NYJ	11
☐	40. **Logan Thomas**	WAS	8
☐	41. **Nick Boyle**	BAL	8
☐	42. **Anthony Firkser**	TEN	7
☐	43. **Jason Witten**	LV	6
☐	44. **Maxx Williams**	ARI	8
☐	45. **Jeremy Sprinkle**	WAS	8
☐	46. **Drew Sample**	CIN	9
☐	47. **Matt LaCosse**	NE	6
☐	48. **Devin Asiasi**	NE	6
☐	49. **Marcedes Lewis**	GB	5
☐	50. **Adam Trautman**	NO	6

Average Depth of Target

Tracked by the game analysts at Pro Football Focus, Average Depth of Target (aDOT) is a better method of tracking the way NFL pass catchers are utilized. Basically an improved version of the popular and mainstream yards per reception (YPR) statistic, aDOT removes volatile YAC (yards after catch) from the equation, instead focusing only on the average distance the player is downfield on each target. Because they're analyzing targets and not receptions, the sample nearly doubles in size, which is key in developing predictable statistics. This season, when looking for a bye week fill-in, bold owners can take a chance on a tight end with a high aDOT in hopes of a big play or two. Risk-averse owners in PPR formats can nab a big man with a low aDOT, and thus higher catch potential.

Shown here are the top aDOT marks among tight ends targeted at least 40 times during the 2019 season. To maximize the sample size, playoff data is included.

Rk	Tight End	Team	Targets	aDOT
1.	Mike Gesicki	MIA	80	11.26
2.	Jared Cook	NO	67	11.10
3.	Mark Andrews	BAL	104	10.99
4.	Hunter Henry	LAC	74	10.47
5.	Jimmy Graham	GB	66	10.39
6.	O.J. Howard	TB	52	10.10
7.	Blake Jarwin	DAL	43	10.05
8.	Dawson Knox	BUF	53	9.92
9.	Hayden Hurst	BAL	44	9.80
10.	Eric Ebron	IND	50	9.68
11.	Greg Olsen	CAR	81	9.20
12.	Travis Kelce	KC	152	9.11
13.	Zach Ertz	PHI	132	9.08
14.	Noah Fant	DEN	59	9.07
15.	Tyler Eifert	CIN	62	8.73
16.	T.J. Hockenson	DET	56	8.59
17.	Gerald Everett	LAR	54	8.24
18.	Darren Waller	OAK	115	7.52
19.	Cameron Brate	TB	52	7.40
20.	Jordan Akins	HOU	53	7.36
21.	Kyle Rudolph	MIN	55	7.33
22.	Austin Hooper	ATL	93	7.23
23.	Jack Doyle	IND	69	7.14
24.	Nick Boyle	BAL	44	6.91
25.	Jacob Hollister	SEA	67	6.81
26.	Jeremy Sprinkle	WAS	40	6.75
27.	Tyler Higbee	LAR	86	6.57
28.	Jason Witten	DAL	82	6.54
29.	Irv Smith Jr.	MIN	49	6.53
30.	Evan Engram	NYG	65	6.46

Top 10 Injury Concerns

1. Mark Andrews, Baltimore Ravens Andrews missed only one game, but he had foot, knee, ankle, and shoulder injuries that cost him plenty of practice time. He still finished as one of the top fantasy scorers at his position and is a TE1 entering 2020, but the injury risk can't be overlooked.

2. Evan Engram, New York Giants In the last two years, Engram has missed a total of 13 games because of hamstring, knee and, most recently, foot issues. Last season ended after eight games because of a Lisfranc injury. He underwent surgery in December, but that is a difficult injury to return from.

3. Hunter Henry, Los Angeles Chargers In four years in the NFL, Henry has yet to play a full season. The four games he missed last season were due to a tibia plateau fracture he suffered in Week 1.

4. Rob Gronkowski, Tampa Bay Buccaneers Even though he cited his health as one of his reasons for stepping away from the game after the 2018 season, Gronk has decided to reunite with Tom Brady in Tampa Bay. Fantasy owners just need to remember that Gronk is now 31 years old and has a pretty thick medical file.

5. Jace Sternberger, Green Bay Packers Sternberger missed most of his first training camp because of a concussion and then suffered an ankle injury in the preseason finale and was put on injured reserve. He was activated in early November, and there's valuable fantasy potential here — if he can stay healthy.

6. Will Dissly, Seattle Seahawks For the second straight season, Dissly saw a promising campaign come to an end due to a significant injury. In 2019, it was a torn Achilles tendon in Week 6. Two years ago it was a patellar tendon injury that ended his season after four games. These are serious injuries.

7. O.J. Howard, Tampa Bay Buccaneers Howard has been in the NFL for three seasons and has missed two or more games in each of them. He's dealt with ankle injuries and knee injuries in the past, and a hamstring injury cost him two games in 2019.

8. Tyler Eifert, Jacksonville Jaguars A litany of injuries (back, neck, fractured ankle) plagued him from 2016-18, but he was able to stay on the field last season, albeit in a reduced role (four starts). Now in Jacksonville, Eifert could have a big role in the offense, but fantasy owners should proceed with caution.

9. Greg Olsen, Seattle Seahawks He broke his foot in 2017, and it ended up costing him a total of 16 games over two seasons. He also missed two games in 2019 because of a concussion. At 35, Olsen is nearing the end of his career, and his best fantasy days are well behind him.

10. Vance McDonald, Pittsburgh Steelers A popular breakout candidate entering last season, McDonald dealt with a shoulder injury and a concussion. He still played in 14 games, but his numbers weren't overly impressive, and fantasy owners should know he's an injury risk.

Mike Gesicki

DST Rankings

Defense/Special Teams

	Defense/Special Teams	Bye
☐	1. **Baltimore**	8
☐	2. **L.A. Chargers**	10
☐	3. **L.A. Rams**	9
☐	4. **Chicago**	11
☐	5. **New Orleans**	6
☐	6. **Pittsburgh**	8
☐	7. **New England**	6
☐	8. **Kansas City**	10
☐	9. **Minnesota**	7
☐	10. **Indianapolis**	7
☐	11. **San Francisco**	11
☐	12. **Philadelphia**	9
☐	13. **Buffalo**	11
☐	14. **Green Bay**	5
☐	15. **Tampa Bay**	13
☐	16. **Seattle**	6
☐	17. **Arizona**	8
☐	18. **Houston**	8
☐	19. **Atlanta**	10
☐	20. **N.Y. Jets**	11
☐	21. **Jacksonville**	7
☐	22. **Washington**	8
☐	23. **Dallas**	10
☐	24. **Tennessee**	7
☐	25. **Cleveland**	9
☐	26. **Denver**	8
☐	27. **Cincinnati**	9
☐	28. **Miami**	11
☐	29. **Las Vegas**	6
☐	30. **Detroit**	5
☐	31. **N.Y. Giants**	11
☐	32. **Carolina**	13

Nick Bosa

Going UP

San Francisco 49ers Can the team with the No. 2 total defense the year before really be considered a sleeper? It can when it has further room to improve. First-round pick Javon Kinlaw should slide seamlessly into DeForest Buckner's (traded to Indianapolis) spot up front, and Richard Sherman is the only defensive starter older than 28. San Francisco should have some positive regression on turnovers, since its 45.8 percent fumble recovery rate — which is random year to year — was below average. Add in a manageable schedule with the AFC East and NFC East as the crossover opponents, and the 49ers can be even better than they were during their Super Bowl run.

Seattle Seahawks It's always important to consider matchups when it comes to fantasy defenses, and perhaps no team has an easier schedule during the fantasy playoffs than the Seahawks. During Weeks 14 and 15, they play the Jets and Redskins — who ranked 31st and 32nd in scoring offense last season, respectively. A Week 16 matchup against the Rams isn't ideal, but it is at CenturyLink Field. The Seahawks will miss Jadeveon Clowney, but they addressed their front seven with their first two draft picks: Jordyn Brooks and Darrell Taylor. Seattle still has an imposing secondary, even with every member of the old Legion of Boom gone.

Washington Redskins Washington's two biggest offseason additions — head coach Ron Rivera and edge rusher Chase Young — will do wonders to improve the defense. Rivera has routinely run great defenses from his time as a coordinator with the Chargers to his tenure as the Panthers' head coach, which included top-five fantasy defenses in 2013 and '15. Young was the best prospect in the entire draft and should solidify Washington as one of the elite pass-rushing teams. Free-agent additions Kendall Fuller and Sean Davis strengthen a secondary that was already ranked in the top half of the league in interceptions.

Dallas Cowboys A mismanaged salary cap left the Cowboys unable to bring back star cornerback Byron Jones — along with Robert Quinn and Maliek Collins — but Dallas did well to replace them. Not only did they sign Ha Ha Clinton-Dix, Gerald McCoy and Dontari Poe to low-risk deals, but they also found great value in the draft. Day 2 and 3 picks Trevon Diggs, Neville Gallimore and Bradlee Anae were all selected well below Athlon Sports' prospect rankings. The Cowboys finished a respectable 20th in fantasy points last year (Athlon scoring) and should be a great value.

Going DOWN

New Orleans Saints The Saints' defense hit the lottery on fumbles last year. Their 69.2 percent fumble recovery rate was the highest for any NFL team since 2009, and they would be lucky to get within 10 points of that this season. The Saints may still have a strong unit, but losing Eli Apple and Vonn Bell in the secondary won't make a unit that finished 20th against the pass any better. The NFC South looks much improved as well — Tom Brady and Teddy Bridgewater are big upgrades over Jameis Winston and Kyle Allen — so New Orleans won't have the same cushy schedule to fall back on, either.

New England Patriots The Patriots weather big losses in free agency seemingly every year and turn out OK, but at some point that has to end, right? The departures of Jamie Collins Sr., Kyle Van Noy and Danny Shelton leave the team thin, even though the Patriots did invest their first three draft picks in defensive players. This isn't to say that the Patriots will be bad, but it will be hard for this unit to once again be the best in the league. With Tom Brady gone, there's serious concern that the offense may leave the defense in worse positions than it's used to as well.

Minnesota Vikings Few teams lost as many players in free agency as the Vikings, who will have to replace Xavier Rhodes, Trae Waynes and Mackensie Alexander in the secondary, as well as Linval Joseph and Stephen Weatherly on the defensive line. Minnesota got unusually lucky on fumbles last year, recovering 62.1 percent of loose balls, and that figures to come back down to earth, especially with a new set of coordinators. And if their turnover luck returns to earth, you can expect their scoring defense (fifth last year) to look much closer to their total defense (14th).

Atlanta Falcons The last thing you want in a fantasy defense is a team that plays high-scoring opponents. Not only are the Falcons tied for the fifth-toughest strength of schedule, but things also get especially challenging during the fantasy playoffs. Facing the Chiefs at Arrowhead Stadium in Week 16 is enough of a deal-breaker, but they play the Buccaneers the week prior. A Week 14 trip to visit the Chargers is no joke either, considering all the weapons on that roster. The Falcons' pass rush isn't strong enough to warrant much of a look here.

Harrison Smith

Bosa: Peter Brouillet; Smith: Tim Umphrey

The Constitution only protects what judges say it does

On June 28, 2010 outside the US Supreme Court building all smiles because of a historic Second Amendment victory, left to right, are attorney Alan Gura, plaintiff Otis McDonald and Second Amendment Foundation founder Alan Gottlieb. Gura argued both the Heller and McDonald suits.

That's why the tax-exempt Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) is supporting some 40-plus federal and state lawsuits to define the First, Second, Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution.

That's why SAF supported the 2008 *Heller* suit that the judges said guaranteed an individual right to keep and bear arms, and why our Foundation financed the 2010 *McDonald* suit that applied the Second Amendment rights assured in Heller to all the states and municipalities in America.

That's also why we financed the *Moore v. Madigan* case which forced the Illinois legislature to finally enact a concealed carry licensing system so Illinoisans could protect themselves from criminal predators, and *Ezell v. Chicago* to force the city to allow gun ranges.

That's also why SAF supported *Palmer v. DC,* to force the city to issue concealed carry licenses and *Wrenn v. DC* to ensure equality of concealed carry licensing for all residents of Washington, DC.

The list goes on as we strive to get judges to read the Constitution as we believe it should be read.

That's why we are constantly pushing the legal envelope in state and federal courtrooms on issues involving firearms access for average Americans, ex-patriot Americans, foster parents, public housing tenants, legal aliens, young people, workers and businessmen.

Over 80% of Second Amendment case law has been won by SAF and our attorneys. You can read about all of our lawsuits on our website: www.saf.org.

And you can support the Second Amendment Foundation's legal action campaign to win freedom one lawsuit at a time by making a tax-deductible contribution or becoming a member for as little as $15 a year. Your contribution makes you an active defender of civil rights.

Second Amendment Foundation

12500 NE Tenth Place, Bellevue, WA 98005

Phone: 425-454-7012 Online: www.saf.org

2020 AFC PREDICTIONS

AFC Playoff Seedings

1. Kansas City
2. Baltimore
3. Tennessee
4. Buffalo
5. Pittsburgh
6. Indianapolis
7. Houston

Wild Card Weekend

Baltimore over Houston
Tennessee over Indianapolis
Pittsburgh over Buffalo

Divisional Round

Baltimore over Tennessee
Kansas City over Pittsburgh

AFC Championship

Baltimore over Kansas City

Super Bowl LV

New Orleans over Baltimore

AFC Power Rankings

1. Baltimore
2. Kansas City
3. Tennessee
4. Pittsburgh
5. Buffalo
6. Indianapolis
7. Houston
8. Las Vegas
9. New England
10. Cleveland
11. L.A. Chargers
12. Denver
13. N.Y. Jets
14. Miami
15. Jacksonville
16. Cincinnati

AFC EAST

1. BUFFALO BILLS
With Tom Brady out of the AFC East, the division is there for Buffalo's taking.

2. NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS
The Pats are going from the GOAT to Jarrett Stidham. Expect a regression.

3. NEW YORK JETS
A strong second half in 2019 has Jets fans excited, but this team still has too many holes to contend.

4. MIAMI DOLPHINS
The main question in South Florida: When will Tua take charge?

AFC NORTH

1. BALTIMORE RAVENS
The sting of a divisional round loss will provide plenty of motivation. They're the AFC favorites.

2. PITTSBURGH STEELERS
Expect a bounce-back, but a lot hinges on Big Ben's repaired right elbow.

3. CLEVELAND BROWNS
No playoff expectations this time around. With the pressure off, they may surprise.

4. CINCINNATI BENGALS
Joe Burrow will find the going a little tougher in the AFC North than in the SEC West.

AFC SOUTH

1. TENNESSEE TITANS
After their sprint to the AFC Championship game, the Titans can't wait for the season to start.

2. INDIANAPOLIS COLTS
Philip Rivers takes the reins and will try to burnish his Hall of Fame credentials.

3. HOUSTON TEXANS
The pressure is on Bill O'Brien after a head-scratching offseason.

4. JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS
Gardner Minshew II will have the reins for a full season, but this is a rebuilding project.

AFC WEST

1. KANSAS CITY CHIEFS
Their confidence soaring, the reigning champs expect to be back in the hunt. We happen to agree.

2. LAS VEGAS RAIDERS
Could a slow start for Derek Carr create a quarterback controversy in Vegas?

3. LOS ANGELES CHARGERS
A new era begins for the Bolts, who will likely lean on their defense.

4. DENVER BRONCOS
John Elway believes in Drew Lock. We'll see if his faith is misplaced.

Lamar Jackson

W.E. Smith

Coordinator Carousel

CLEVELAND BROWNS

Offensive Coordinator

Old: Todd Monken • New: Alex Van Pelt

The Bengals quarterbacks coach for the past two seasons, Van Pelt will play a key role in helping first-time head coach Kevin Stefanski find his footing in Cleveland. A former quarterback himself, Van Pelt will be charged with coaxing a bounce-back season out of Browns QB Baker Mayfield. The new coordinator will have plenty of toys to play with — Mayfield, RB Nick Chubb and wideouts Odell Beckham Jr. and Jarvis Landry.

CLEVELAND BROWNS

Defensive Coordinator

Old: Steve Wilks • New: Joe Woods

Woods was pass game coordinator/DBs coach for the 49ers last season, coaching in a Super Bowl for the second time in his career (he also coached DBs for the Super Bowl champion Broncos in 2015). He was defensive coordinator in Denver in 2017-18, and his 2017 unit ranked third in the NFL in total defense while seeing its rushing yards per game average improve by more than 40 yards per game.

DENVER BRONCOS

Offensive Coordinator

Old: Rich Scangarello • New: Pat Shurmur

Shurmur is fresh off a failed two-year tenure as Giants head coach (9–23), but he possesses as much experience as almost any hire on this list, having coached in the NFL in some capacity since 1999. His three stints as an offensive coordinator — with the Rams (2009-10), Eagles (2013-15) and Vikings (2016-17) — yielded mixed but mostly positive results, with his 2013 Eagles offense (under Chip Kelly) setting team records for points, total yards, TDs, passing yards and fewest turnovers.

HOUSTON TEXANS

Defensive Coordinator

Old: Romeo Crennel • New: Anthony Weaver

A former defensive lineman for the Ravens and Texans who posted 15.5 career sacks, Weaver has been the D-line coach in Houston since 2016. Crennel is still on hand as associate head coach and will provide a steadying influence in Weaver's first season as a coordinator, but he has bequeathed his successor a unit that needs to improve — the Texans were 28th in total defense, 29th in pass defense and tied for 26th in sacks.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

Offensive Coordinator

Old: John DeFilippo • New: Jay Gruden

Another fired head coach resurfaces as a coordinator, as the former Redskins boss (35–49–1 in five-plus seasons) gets a shot at revitalizing his career in Jacksonville. Job One will be to polish and refine anointed quarterback Gardner Minshew II into something more than a local folk hero. It remains to be seen if Gruden possesses the weaponry to run his preferred West Coast, vertical passing attack, although he does have a nice building block in DJ Chark Jr.

MIAMI DOLPHINS

Offensive Coordinator

Old: Chad O'Shea • New: Chan Gailey

How long has this NFL lifer been around? Long enough to have coached the Triplets in Dallas (Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith and Michael Irvin) and to have been John Elway's position coach (1988). This is his second stint as Miami's offensive coordinator — he also filled that role in 2000-01 — but this time, instead of trying to replace Dan Marino, he's trying to help sort out a QB situation that features Ryan Fitzpatrick and celebrated rookie Tua Tagovailoa.

Offensive Player of the Year

Patrick Mahomes, QB, Kansas City

Defensive Player of the Year

T.J. Watt, Edge, Pittsburgh

Comeback Player of the Year

Ben Roethlisberger, QB, Pittsburgh

Offensive Rookie of the Year

Joe Burrow, QB, Cincinnati

Defensive Rookie of the Year

Patrick Queen, LB, Baltimore

Coach of the Year

John Harbaugh, Baltimore

MIAMI DOLPHINS

Defensive Coordinator

Old: Patrick Graham • New: Josh Boyer

Boyer was an internal promotion after the unexpected firing of Patrick Graham, who did the best he could with what he had. Boyer will implement the vision of defensive-minded head coach Brian Flores, the former defensive coordinator in New England. Boyer's experience at the NFL level is essentially limited to DBs work, and his unit ranked 26th in the league last season in pass defense. But this year, he'll have talented rookie DBs Noah Igbinoghene and Brandon Jones to work with.

TENNESSEE TITANS

Defensive Coordinator

Old: Dean Pees • New: None

The retirement of the venerable Pees leaves head coach Mike Vrabel with the de facto role that the former linebacker loves best — calling the shots for a talented defense. Vrabel will oversee a unit that is coming off an effective (if statistically unimpressive) campaign in which the Titans finished T5 in the AFC in interceptions, sixth in sacks and seventh in scoring defense. New inside linebackers coach Jim Haslett, who has 34 years in the NFL to his credit as a player and coach, will provide a steady hand if Vrabel's head-coaching duties get in the way.

Buffalo BILLS

AFC East Forecast: 1

THE ORGANIZATION

Owners: Kim and Terry Pegula
President: Kim Pegula
General Manager: Brandon Beane
Assistant General Manager: Joe Schoen
Stadium: New Era Field (73,967)
Surface: A-Turf Titan
Website: www.buffalobills.com
Tickets: 877-BB-TICKS (228-4257)
Training Camp: St. John Fisher College (Rochester, N.Y.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Sean McDermott
Record With Team: 25-23
Career Record: 25-23
Offensive Coordinator: Brian Daboll
Defensive Coordinator/Assistant Head Coach: Leslie Frazier
Special Teams Coordinator: Heath Farwell
Quarterbacks: Ken Dorsey
Running Backs: Kelly Skipper
Wide Receivers: Chad Hall
Tight Ends: Rob Boras
Offensive Line: Bobby Johnson
Defensive Line: Eric Washington
Linebackers: Bob Babich
Defensive Backs: John Butler
Safeties: Bobby Babich
Nickels: Jim Salgado

After losing to the Houston Texans 22–19 in a wild card playoff game, the Bills put themselves under the microscope instead of focusing on controversial calls by the officials. Despite rolling up a season-high 425 yards vs. the Texans, the Bills, whose 10–6 regular-season record was their best since 1999, couldn't better their 19.6 regular-season points-per-game average and dropped their second playoff game in three seasons under head coach Sean McDermott.

But where to get better came into full focus: Keep giving rising star quarterback Josh Allen more weapons so the offense can better complement the NFL's No. 3-ranked defense. A blockbuster trade for receiver Stefon Diggs, along with a draft that was heavy on offense, accomplished that.

OFFENSE In two seasons of sometimes brilliant, sometimes wacky but always passionate play, Allen has justified his selection as the No. 7 overall pick in 2018. He's big, mobile and a gamer, joining Steve Grogan, Dak Prescott, Cam Newton and Lamar Jackson as the only NFL quarterbacks with 20-plus passing and 12-plus rushing touchdowns in their first two seasons. He tied Russell Wilson and Deshaun Watson for most game-winning drives in 2019 with five.

With third-year coordinator Brian Daboll having polished Allen's rough edges and Beane adding Diggs to join John Brown and Cole Beasley to form one of the NFL's most versatile trio of receivers, Buffalo's passing game is poised to make a giant leap from its ranking of 26th. Diggs, just 26, is a dynamic plug-and-play veteran who had grown tired of his Minnesota surroundings. For a batch of picks, including a 2020 first-rounder, the Bills added a player who can run the entire route tree and, with Brown, make full use of Allen's deep-ball skills. Beasley, meanwhile, is an accomplished short- to mid-range weapon, peskier than a fly at a picnic. How good can this trio be? Their combined numbers from 2019 add up to 202 catches, 2,968 yards, 18 touchdowns and a catch percentage of 64.1 percent.

Meanwhile, things look better at tight end than they have in years. Dawson Knox had a promising rookie campaign with 28 receptions for 388 yards and two scores, and he turned in several of the season's most memorable plays, including a 49-yard catch-and-run against Cincinnati where he made bowling pins out of two Bengals defenders. At 6'4", 254, he's a presence the Bills have sorely lacked at the position. Depth is strong, led by veteran Tyler Kroft, who is healthy again after missing five games.

Playing dime packages all day would be one solution for an opposing defense against Buffalo's passing ability, except that the league's No. 8 rushing attack was also upgraded with the addition of rookie running back Zack Moss of Utah to join last year's rookie sensation Devin Singletary. Moss, a bruiser who replaces Frank Gore, will be the smash to complement Singletary's flash. As a rookie, Singletary led all rookies with 549 yards from scrimmage in Weeks 11-16. He has elite ability to find seams and accelerate and figures to be an even bigger factor in the passing game. Veteran T.J. Yeldon, who was underutilized last season, provides solid insurance.

Making it all click is a nimble, athletic line that GM Brandon Beane was able to overhaul in just one offseason. Returning as a unit are center Mitch Morse, guards Quinton Spain and Jon Feliciano and young bookend tackles Dion Dawkins and Cody Ford. Morse, a 2019 free agent from Kansas City,

2020 SCHEDULE

2019 NFL RANKINGS

Date	Opponent	Time	2019 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 13	N.Y. Jets	1:00	7-9	273.0 (32)	323.1 (7)	17.2 (31)	22.4 (16)
Sept. 20	at Miami	1:00	5-11	310.0 (27)	397.8 (30)	19.1 (25)	30.9 (32)
Sept. 27	L.A. Rams	1:00	9-7	374.9 (7)	339.6 (13)	24.6 (11)	22.8 (17)
Oct. 4	at Las Vegas	4:25	7-9	363.7 (11)	354.8 (19)	19.6 (24)	26.2 (24)
Oct. 11	at Tennessee	1:00	9-7	362.8 (12)	359.5 (21)	25.1 (10)	20.7 (12)
Oct. 15	Kansas City (Thu.)	8:20	12-4	379.2 (6)	349.6 (17)	28.2 (5)	19.2 (7)
Oct. 25	at N.Y. Jets	1:00	7-9	273.0 (32)	323.1 (7)	17.2 (31)	22.4 (16)
Nov. 1	New England	1:00	12-4	354.0 (15)	275.9 (1)	26.2 (7)	14.1 (1)
Nov. 8	Seattle	1:00	11-5	374.4 (8)	381.6 (26)	25.3 (9)	24.9 (22)
Nov. 15	at Arizona	4:05	5-10-1	341.7 (21)	402.0 (32)	22.6 (t16)	27.6 (28)
BYE							
Nov. 29	L.A. Chargers	1:00	5-11	367.4 (10)	313.1 (6)	21.1 (21)	21.6 (14)
Dec. 7	at San Francisco (Mon.)	8:15	13-3	381.1 (4)	281.8 (2)	29.9 (2)	19.4 (8)
Dec. 13	Pittsburgh	8:20	8-8	276.8 (30)	304.1 (5)	18.1 (27)	18.9 (t5)
Dec.19/20	at Denver	TBD	7-9	298.6 (28)	337.0 (12)	17.6 (28)	19.8 (10)
Dec. 28	at New England (Mon.)	8:15	12-4	354.0 (15)	275.9 (1)	26.2 (7)	14.1 (1)
Jan. 3	Miami	1:00	5-11	310.0 (27)	397.8 (30)	19.1 (25)	30.9 (32)

Matt Hernandez

Josh Allen

QUARTERBACK

2019 RESULTS (10-6)

Sept. 8	at N.Y. Jets	W	17-16
Sept. 15	at N.Y. Giants	W	28-14
Sept. 22	Cincinnati	W	21-17
Sept. 29	New England	L	10-16
Oct. 6	at Tennessee	W	14-7
Oct. 20	Miami	W	31-21
Oct. 27	Philadelphia	L	13-31
Nov. 3	Washington	W	24-9
Nov. 10	at Cleveland	L	16-19
Nov. 17	at Miami	W	37-20
Nov. 24	Denver	W	20-3
Nov. 28	at Dallas	W	26-15
Dec. 8	Baltimore	L	17-24
Dec. 15	at Pittsburgh	W	17-10
Dec. 21	at New England	L	17-24
Dec 29	N.Y. Jets	L	6-13
POSTSEASON			
Jan. 4	Houston	L	19-22

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Josh Allen	461	271	3,089	20	9
Matt Barkley	51	27	359	0	3

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Devin Singletary	151	775	5.1	2
Frank Gore	166	599	3.6	2
Josh Allen	109	510	4.7	9

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
John Brown	72	1,060	14.7	6
Cole Beasley	67	778	11.6	6
Dawson Knox	28	388	13.9	2
Isaiah McKenzie	27	254	9.4	1

KICKING: Stephen Hauschka, 22-28 FGs, 30-32 PAT, 96 points

TACKLES: Tremaine Edmunds, 115; Jordan Poyer, 107

SACKS: Jordan Phillips, 9.5; Shaq Lawson, 6.5

INTERCEPTIONS: Tre'Davious White, 6; two tied with 2

2019 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	330.2	24	10
Rushing	128.4	8	4
Passing	201.8	26	11
Scoring	19.6	23	9
Third Down %	35.8	24	11
Punt Returns	7.6	14	9
Kick Returns	25.1	T5	T3

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	298.2	3	2
Rushing	103.1	10	6
Passing	195.2	4	3
Scoring	16.2	2	2
Interceptions	14	T8	T5
Sacks	44	12	5
Turnover Differential	+4	T10	6

started all 16 games after an early concussion scare and provided stability after the sudden 2018 retirement of Eric Wood. Ty Nsekhe and free agent Daryl Williams are key depth players.

Tremaine Edmunds

Matt Hernandez

DEFENSE McDermott and coordinator Leslie Frazier have built a nasty defense that has ranked No. 2 and No. 3 in the NFL in total yards allowed the past two seasons, respectively. The Bills' core players will enter their fourth season playing an aggressive 4-3, zone coverage scheme that relies on heavy rotation to stay fresh.

Buffalo did lose heart-and-soul linebacker Lorenzo Alexander to retirement as well as defensive linemen Jordan Phillips and Shaq Lawson, who combined for 16 sacks, and veteran cornerback Kevin Johnson in free agency. But as quickly as those holes materialized, they were filled with a flurry of veteran signings. Defensive end Mario Addison, who has collected at least nine sacks in each of the past four seasons for Carolina, will play on the edge with Jerry Hughes and Trent Murphy. Hughes, who hasn't hit double digits in sacks since 2014, fought through a slew of injuries last season but is poised for a bounce-back in the twilight of his career. Helping these 30-somethings is rookie A.J. Epenesa, the Bills' top draft pick (second round, 54th overall) out of Iowa. Epenesa, a human eclipse at 6'6", 280, was one of the nation's top edge rushers with 11.5 sacks. Inside, last season's first-round pick, Ed Oliver (43 tackles, 5.0 sacks), is ready to hold down a starting tackle spot alongside veteran Star Lotulelei, a reliable space-eater. However, Oliver is facing league discipline after a May arrest on DWI and weapons charges in his native Houston and likely won't be available to open the season. That puts an emphasis on third-year pro Harrison Phillips being fully recovered from ACL surgery. Newcomers Vernon Butler and Quinton Jefferson and second-year man Darryl Johnson round out the depth, giving the Bills have a seven- to eight-man rotation to rush the quarterback and clog running lanes.

Middle linebacker Tremaine Edmunds, a 2018 first-round pick who has freakish size (6'5", 250) for the position, led the Bills with 115 tackles but hasn't even scratched the surface of his potential. He's joined by overachieving Matt Milano (101 tackles) and versatile free agent A.J. Klein, another former Panther who slides into Alexander's strongside slot.

The Bills' secondary is led by Pro Bowler Tre'Davious White, who had a breakout year with six interceptions. He held opposing QBs to a 38.9 rating, second best in the league. Levi Wallace, an undrafted rookie in 2018, started all 16 games opposite White, finishing with 76 tackles and two picks. Brought in to challenge for his starting spot was Josh Norman, 32, a former Pro Bowl player for McDermott in Carolina. Meanwhile, the Bills employ one of the NFL's best safety tandems in Micah Hyde and Jordan Poyer, McDermott's original building blocks in Buffalo. Poyer, who had 107 tackles and two picks, has soared since arriving from Cleveland and signed a two-year, $20 million extension. Depth overflows with nickel Taron Johnson, Dean Marlowe and Jaquan Johnson.

SPECIALISTS Stephen Hauschka's nickname of "Hausch Money" is well deserved, as the 12-year veteran has been among the NFL's best kickers for a long time. But trust in his leg is waning, especially after he went 1-for-5 from beyond 50 yards last season. Enter sixth-round pick Tyler Bass to signal that the job is wide open. Third-year punter Corey Bojorquez went through growing pains in 2019 but wound up with a team-record 34 punts inside the 20 to go with a 37.7 net average. Andre Roberts, one of the best at his craft, returns to handle both kickoff and punt returns. The former Pro Bowler averaged 26.6 yards on 25 kickoff returns, with three going 40-plus yards.

FINAL ANALYSIS Buffalo has gone from one of the most dysfunctional organizations to one of the most stable in three quick seasons under Beane and McDermott. They came in talking about "a process" and have stuck with it. Now it's a matter of getting over the wild-card playoff hump. With Tom Brady's exodus, the New England Patriots' stranglehold on the AFC East Division has been loosened, putting the emerging Bills in position to win their first division title since 1995.

Scouting the Bills

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP BUFFALO "Head coach Sean McDermott and GM Brandon Beane have built an exciting culture, making the playoffs twice in three years, but can they take the next step and win in the playoffs? … Offensive coordinator Brian Daboll has done a great job of putting QB Josh Allen in a position to thrive, using his strengths as a rusher and hitting intermediate throws off play action. This was the No. 8-ranked rushing offense with rookie playmaker RB Devin Singletary and old reliable RB Frank Gore. The weakness was their passing attack, so they traded a first-round draft pick for star WR Stefon Diggs to pair with speedster John 'Smoky' Brown and slot WR Cole Beasley. The TE unit was serviceable, but expect more production from second-year TE Dawson Knox. … Last offseason, they invested a lot of shares into the OL and saw immediate return on investment, but they must improve the OG spots. … This was a top-three defensive unit, but the weakness was on the DL. Expect second-year DT Ed Oliver to have a breakout season due to the loss of sack leaders DT Jordan Phillips and DE Shaq Lawson in free agency. Expect ex-Panthers DT Vernon Butler and relentless DE Mario Addison to make an impact. LB Lorenzo Alexander retired, but they won't miss a beat with the emergence of LB Matt Milano and LB Tremaine Edmunds, who made his first Pro Bowl last season. … They're lacking a true outside CB to pair with All-Pro CB Tre'Davious White and underrated nickel Taron Johnson but have one of the best safety units in the NFL with Jordan Poyer and Micah Hyde. … The ceiling for this team will solely depend on Allen's improvement as a passer."

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
DE	Mario Addison	Carolina
DT	Vernon Butler	Carolina
WR	Stefon Diggs	Minnesota
DT	Quinton Jefferson	Seattle
RB	Taiwan Jones	Houston
LB	A.J. Klein	New Orleans
LB	Tyler Matakevich	Pittsburgh
CB	Josh Norman	Washington
OL	Daryl Williams	Carolina

KEY LOSSES -

POS.	PLAYER	2020 TEAM
LB	Lorenzo Alexander	Retired
FS	Kurt Coleman	Free agent
RB	Frank Gore	N.Y. Jets
CB	Kevin Johnson	Cleveland
DE	Shaq Lawson	Miami
DT	Jordan Phillips	Arizona

Offseason Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR	15	John Brown	82	Duke Williams
WR	14	Stefon Diggs	16	Robert Foster
WR	10	Cole Beasley	19	Isaiah McKenzie
LT	73	Dion Dawkins	71	Ryan Bates
LG	67	Quinton Spain	75	Daryl Williams
C	60	Mitch Morse	61	Spencer Long
RG	76	Jon Feliciano	61	Spencer Long
RT	70	Cody Ford	77	Ty Nsekhe
TE	88	Dawson Knox	81	Tyler Kroft
QB	17	Josh Allen	5	Matt Barkley
RB	26	Devin Singletary	20	Zack Moss (R)

DEFENSE

DE	93	Trent Murphy	97	Mario Addison
DT	91	Ed Oliver	94	Vernon Butler
DT	98	Star Lotulelei	90	Quinton Jefferson
DE	55	Jerry Hughes	57	A.J. Epenesa (R)
WLB	58	Matt Milano	50	Vosean Joseph
MLB	49	Tremaine Edmunds	44	Tyler Matakevich
SLB	54	A.J. Klein	52	Corey Thompson
CB	27	Tre'Davious White	39	Levi Wallace
CB	29	Josh Norman	24	Taron Johnson
FS	23	Micah Hyde	46	Jaquan Johnson
SS	21	Jordan Poyer	31	Dean Marlowe

SPECIALISTS

K	4	Stephen Hauschka	KR	18	Andre Roberts
P	9	Corey Bojorquez	PR	18	Andre Roberts

2020 VETERAN BILLS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
17	Allen, Josh	QB	6-5	237	2	Wyoming	D1a-18	D1a-Buf-18
5	Barkley, Matt	QB	6-2	234	7	USC	FA-18	D3-Phi-13
7	Webb, Davis	QB	6-5	225	3	California	FA-19	D3-NYG-17
RUNNING BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
42	DiMarco, Patrick	FB	6-1	234	9	South Carolina	FA-17	FA-LAC-11
25	Jones, Taiwan	RB	6-0	195	9	Eastern Washington	FA-Hou-20	D4-LV-11
26	Singletary, Devin	RB	5-7	203	1	Florida Atlantic	D3a-19	D3a-Buf-19
45	Wade, Christian	RB	5-9	196	1	St. Mary's (UK)	FA-19	FA-Buf-19
22	Yeldon, T.J.	RB	6-1	223	5	Alabama	FA-Jac-19	D2-Jac-15
RECEIVERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
10	Beasley, Cole	WR	5-8	174	8	SMU	FA-Dal-19	FA-Dal-12
84	Becker, Nate	TE	6-5	264	1	Miami (OH)	FA-19	FA-Det-19
15	Brown, John	WR	5-11	178	6	Pittsburg State	FA-Bal-19	D3-Ari-14
80	Croom, Jason	TE	6-5	246	2	Tennessee	FA-17	FA-Buf-17
14	Diggs, Stefon	WR	6-0	191	5	Maryland	T-Min-20	D5b-Min-15
86	Easley, Nick	WR	5-11	203	1	Iowa	FA-19	FA-Buf-19
16	Foster, Robert	WR	6-2	196	2	Alabama	FA-18	FA-Buf-18
88	Knox, Dawson	TE	6-4	254	1	Ole Miss	D3b-19	D3b-Buf-19
81	Kroft, Tyler	TE	6-6	252	5	Rutgers	FA-Cin-19	D3-Cin-15
14	McCloud III, Ray-Ray	WR	5-9	190	2	Clemson	FA-19	D6-Buf-18
19	McKenzie, Isaiah	WR	5-8	173	3	Georgia	W-Den-18	D5-Den-17
18	Roberts, Andre	WR	5-11	195	10	The Citadel	FA-NYJ-19	D3-Ari-10
85	Smith, Lee	TE	6-6	265	9	Marshall	FA-19	D5-NE-11
89	Sweeney, Tommy	TE	6-5	251	1	Boston College	D7b-19	D7b-Buf-19
82	Williams, Duke	WR	6-3	225	1	Auburn	FA-19	FA-LAR-16
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
71	Bates, Ryan	OL	6-4	302	1	Penn State	T-Phi-19	FA-Phi-19
64	Boehm, Evan	C/G	6-3	321	4	Missouri	FA-Mia-20	D4-Ari-16
65	Boettger, Ike	G	6-6	313	2	Iowa	W-KC-18	FA-Buf-18
73	Dawkins, Dion	T	6-5	320	3	Temple	D2b-17	D2b-Buf-17
76	Feliciano, Jon	G	6-4	325	5	Miami	FA-LV-19	D4-LV-15
70	Ford, Cody	T	6-3	329	1	Oklahoma	D2-19	D2-Buf-19
61	Long, Spencer	C/G	6-5	318	6	Nebraska	FA-NYJ-19	D3-Was-15
63	McGhin, Garrett	T/G	6-6	300	1	East Carolina	FA-20	FA-Buf-19
60	Morse, Mitch	C	6-6	305	5	Missouri	FA-KC-19	D2-KC-15
77	Nsekhe, Ty	T	6-8	330	5	Texas State	FA-Was-19	FA-Ind-12
62	Salako, Vincent	T	6-6	322	1	Oklahoma State	FA-19	FA-Phi-17
67	Spain, Quinton	G	6-4	330	5	West Virginia	FA-Ten-19	FA-Ten-15
75	Williams, Daryl	T	6-6	330	5	Oklahoma	FA-Car-20	D4-Car-15
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
97	Addison, Mario	DE	6-3	260	9	Troy	FA-Car-20	FA-Chi-11
94	Butler, Vernon	DT	6-4	330	4	Louisiana Tech	FA-Car-20	D1-Car-16
51	Cox Jr., Bryan	DE	6-3	270	3	Florida	FA-Cle-20	FA-Car-17
55	Hughes, Jerry	DE	6-2	254	10	TCU	T-Ind-13	D1-Ind-10
90	Jefferson, Quinton	DE	6-4	291	4	Maryland	FA-Sea-20	D5a-Sea-16
92	Johnson, Darryl	DE	6-6	253	1	North Carolina A&T	D7a-19	D7a-Buf-19
98	Lotulelei, Star	DT	6-2	315	7	Utah	FA-18	D1-Car-13
56	Love, Mike	DE	6-3	255	1	South Florida	FA-18	FA-Buf-18
93	Murphy, Trent	DE	6-6	260	6	Stanford	FA-18	D2-Was-14
91	Oliver, Ed	DT	6-1	287	1	Houston	D1-19	D1-Buf-19
99	Phillips, Harrison	DT	6-3	307	2	Stanford	D3-18	D3-Buf-18
96	Taylor, Vincent	DT	6-3	311	3	Oklahoma State	FA-19	D6-Mia-17
59	Woodard, Jonathan	DE	6-5	271	1	Central Arkansas	FA-20	D7-Jac-16
LINEBACKERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
53	Dodson, Tyrel	LB	6-0	237	1	Texas A&M	FA-19	FA-Buf-19
49	Edmunds, Tremaine	LB	6-5	250	2	Virginia Tech	D1b-18	D1b-Buf-18
50	Joseph, Vosean	LB	6-1	230	1	Florida	D5-19	D5-Buf-19
54	Klein, A.J.	LB	6-1	240	7	Iowa State	FA-NO-20	D5-Car-13
44	Matakevich, Tyler	LB	6-1	235	4	Temple	FA-Pit-20	D7b-Pit-16
58	Milano, Matt	LB	6-0	223	3	Boston College	D5a-17	D5a-Buf-17
43	Phillips, Del'Shawn	LB	6-2	230	1	Illinois	FA-19	FA-Atl-19
52	Thompson, Corey	LB	6-1	222	2	LSU	FA-18	FA-Buf-18
DEFENSIVE BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
23	Hyde, Micah	S	6-0	197	7	Iowa	FA-17	D5-GB-13
46	Johnson, Jaquan	S	5-10	191	1	Miami	D6-19	D6-Buf-19
24	Johnson, Taron	CB	5-11	192	2	Weber State	D4-18	D4-Buf-18
47	Lewis, Cam	CB	5-9	183	1	Buffalo	FA-19	FA-Buf-19
31	Marlowe, Dean	S	6-1	208	3	James Madison	FA-17	FA-Car-15
33	Neal, Siran	S	6-0	206	2	Jacksonville State	D5a-18	D5a-Buf-18
29	Norman, Josh	CB	6-0	200	8	Coastal Carolina	FA-Was-20	D5-Car-12
21	Poyer, Jordan	S	6-0	191	7	Oregon State	FA-17	D7-Phi-13
39	Wallace, Levi	CB	6-0	179	2	Alabama	FA-18	FA-Buf-18
27	White, Tre'Davious	CB	5-11	192	3	LSU	D1-17	D1-Buf-17
SPECIALISTS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
9	Bojorquez, Corey	P	6-0	208	2	New Mexico	W-NE-18	FA-NE-18
69	Ferguson, Reid	LS	6-2	235	3	LSU	FA-16	FA-Buf-16
4	Hauschka, Stephen	K	6-4	210	12	Middlebury	FA-17	FA-Min-08
6	Vedvik, Kaare	K/P	6-3	210	1	Marshall	FA-20	FA-Bal-18

Bills *in the Draft* | Grade: A-

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
2.	**A.J. Epenesa**	**DE**	**6-6**	**280**	**Iowa**
3.	Zack Moss	RB	5-9	205	Utah
4.	Gabriel Davis	WR	6-2	210	UCF
5.	Jake Fromm	QB	6-2	215	Georgia
6.	Tyler Bass	PK	5-10	183	Georgia Southern
6.	Isaiah Hodgins	WR	6-3	201	Oregon State
7.	Dane Jackson	CB	5-11	180	Pittsburgh

After finding nine starters in the previous three drafts, the Bills had the luxury in the 2019 draft of concentrating on improving their overall depth. A.J. Epenesa, a brute force who had 11.5 sacks as a senior, will improve Buffalo's ability to set the edge on defense, and Zack Moss' physical style will complement the flash of Devin Singletary. Both players are tabbed to log major reps as rookies. Gabriel Davis and Isaiah Hodgins add needed size to a suddenly deep pool of receivers. Jake Fromm has a chance to unseat Matt Barkley as the team's No. 2 QB. Tyler Bass, who hit nearly 80 percent of his kicks in college, will push veteran Stephen Hauschka, who has had wobbly moments of late.

Outside the Huddle

THE BRADY EFFECT Tom Brady posted a career record of 32–3 with 70 touchdown passes against the Bills. Now that TB is in TB (Tampa Bay), the AFC East is wide open. Just don't try and get Buffalo general manager Brandon Beane to say that his team is the favorite, like many experts believe. "I think it's comical that people are writing them off and labeling whether it's us or another team as the team to beat in the East," Beane says. "The team to beat in the East is the Patriots until somebody beats them. They are the team to beat as long as Bill Belichick's there." The Patriots have won 17 division titles in 20 seasons under Belichick, including each of the last 11.

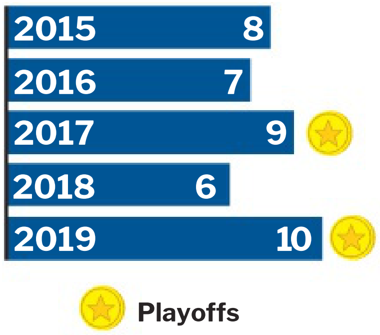
IT'S JAKE FROMM, GEORGIA With Josh Allen, the No. 7 overall pick in 2018, entrenched at starting quarterback, the selection of Georgia's Jake Fromm in the fifth round raised eyebrows. But the pick is easily explained this way: You can never have enough winners on your roster, especially at the quarterback position, and Fromm went 36–7 and won three consecutive SEC East titles for the Bulldogs. "For me, my entire career, I've always kind of been the guy left out," Fromm said. "The guy who's not tall enough, not strong enough, can't do this, can't do that. For me, it's just showing up to work and competing and doing whatever I can to help the team win." Buffalo has now drafted a QB in four of the last five years.

HUMBLE AND HUNGRY Buffalo's offseason free agent haul included seven players drafted in the fourth round or later by their original teams, one who went undrafted and only one, defensive tackle Vernon Butler, who was a first-round pick (in 2016 by the Panthers when Beane was Carolina's assistant GM). Butler was the 30th overall selection and didn't become a starter until last season, when he notched a career-high six sacks. There's a theme here of signing players with strong character and work ethic. "I'm excited for what they're doing," says safety Jordan Poyer, one of coach Sean McDermott's first free agent signings. "It's 'trust the process,' it's always 'trust the process.'"

ALLEN'S NEW TOY Last season Josh Allen was handed John Brown and Cole Beasley as proven targets to throw to. Now it's Stefon Diggs, 26, who has caught 165 passes for 2,151 yards and 15 touchdowns over the past two seasons combined for the Vikings. How excited is Allen about Diggs' arrival? Well, how rich is Bill Gates? "I'm still pumped about it; I'm still floating on Cloud Nine," Allen told SiriusXM radio. "He's a big-time playmaker, and he's going to help us out a lot." Posted Diggs on Instagram about Allen: "I think he's a baller, he's a dog, too. Just watch him play. He's a dog." (In today's parlance, "dog" is a good thing.)

TOUGHER TEST The Bills schedule turns decidedly tougher in 2020. Facing the AFC and NFC West rather than the AFC North and NFC East, Buffalo will meet last season's Super Bowl participants, the Kansas City Chiefs and San Francisco 49ers, along with playoff teams Seattle, Tennessee and New England (twice) from its division. Last season, Buffalo's 6–2 road record was its best since 1993, the zenith of its Super Bowl era.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



NUMBERS TO KNOW

7.2

The Bills allowed an average passing target depth of 7.2 yards in 2019, second lowest in the NFL.

36

Buffalo's receivers suffered a league-high 36 drops last season.

9.4

Per NFL Next Gen stats, Josh Allen's average depth of target dropped from 11.0 yards in 2018 to 9.4 yards in 2019.

AP Photo/Paul Sancya

Miami
DOLPHINS

AFC East Forecast: 4

Hope. That's what has been absent during the Miami Dolphins' two decades of dormancy, mediocrity and irrelevance. The once-proud franchise, so long led by the late, great Don Shula (the man known as The Jaw), had mostly taken it on the chin since last winning a playoff game back on December 30, 2000 — before Tom Brady won his first Super Bowl.

Now, though, things have changed. Brady is gone from the AFC East; the Dolphins have endured the most difficult part of their teardown/rebuild; they have belief in their coach (Brian Flores) following a stunning 5–4 finish; and they have the franchise's most exciting prospect since 1983, the year they drafted Dan Marino in the first round.

When will quarterback Tua Tagovailoa play, in light of the hip injury that sidelined him during his final season at Alabama? Flores won't say. "I think it's way too early to speculate on this year and how this is going to go," Flores said after he and GM Chris Grier delighted the Dolphins' beleaguered fan base by taking Tagovailoa fifth overall in April. "You guys know we like to take a one-day-at-a-time approach anyway. That's going to be the approach I'm going to have him take that approach as well."

But it does appear that, at last, better days for the Dolphins are ahead.

OFFENSE Ryan Fitzpatrick was the Dolphins' leading rusher last season. In many ways, this is a tribute to Fitzpatrick and his competitiveness, that — at 37 and with less than lightning for feet — he could pace his team on the ground.

But it also speaks to the sad state of the Miami offense last season and how little help Fitzpatrick got. Miami traded its cornerstone left tackle (Laremy Tunsil) and its only breakaway rushing threat (Kenyan Drake) during the season as the receivers (Albert Wilson, Jakeem Grant, Preston Williams) other than DeVante Parker all were slowed or stopped by injuries.

Now Fitzpatrick is back as the bridge quarterback, and so is a former Dolphins offensive coordinator, the grizzled Chan Gailey — nearly 20 years after Gailey helped the Dolphins to their last playoff victory. Gailey replaced Chad O'Shea in one of the offseason's many surprise moves.

It would be a surprise not to see Fitzpatrick start the season, even with Josh Rosen still around following an unfulfilling first season in Miami, and even with the fans anxious to see Tagovailoa. Fitzpatrick went 5–8 as a starter while compiling an 85.5 quarterback rating, taking a beating behind a makeshift line (40 sacks) but continuing to battle until the end of the season.

That toughness will be required again, as the Dolphins break in an entirely new group, albeit a more talented one. Miami imported Ereck Flowers (a failure at tackle but solid at guard) and center Ted Karras in free agency while adding three offensive linemen (Austin Jackson, Robert Hunt, Solomon Kindley) in the first four rounds. The common theme? Size. The need? Patience, with the hope that they round into form by the time Tagovailoa is ready.

And there should be more production from the skill spots than last season. Parker, an oft-injured disappointment his first few seasons, broke out in 2019 with 1,202 yards and nine touchdowns. And Williams was a revelation as an undrafted addition before he tore up his knee. Both have the size to outmuscle defenders. If they're fully well again, Grant and Wilson give the group speed and

THE ORGANIZATION

Chairman/Managing General Partner: Stephen M. Ross
Vice Chairman/President/CEO: Tom Garfinkel
Vice Chairman/Partner: Bruce Beal
General Manager: Chris Grier
Stadium: Hard Rock Stadium (65,326)
Surface: Grass
Website: www.miamidolphins.com
Tickets: 888-FINS-TIX (3467-849)
Training Camp: Baptist Health Training Facility (Davie, Fla.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Brian Flores
Record With Team: 5-11
Career Record: 5-11
Offensive Coordinator: Chan Gailey
Defensive Coordinator: Josh Boyer
Special Teams Coordinator: Danny Crossman
Quarterbacks: Robby Brown
Running Backs: Eric Studesville
Wide Receivers: Josh Grizzard
Tight Ends: George Godsey
Offensive Line: Steve Marshall
Defensive Line: Marion Hobby
Linebackers: Anthony Campanile
Outside Linebackers: Austin Clark
Defensive Backs: Gerald Alexander

2020 SCHEDULE

2019 NFL RANKINGS

Date		Opponent	Time	2019 Record	Total Offense		Total Defense		Scoring Offense		Scoring Defense	
Sept.	13	at New England	1:00	12-4	354.0	(15)	275.9	(1)	26.2	(7)	14.1	(1)
Sept.	20	Buffalo	1:00	10-6	330.2	(24)	298.3	(3)	19.6	(23)	16.2	(2)
Sept.	24	at Jacksonville (Thu.)	8:20	6-10	341.8	(20)	375.4	(24)	18.8	(26)	24.8	(21)
Oct.	4	Seattle	1:00	11-5	374.4	(8)	381.6	(26)	25.3	(9)	24.9	(22)
Oct.	11	at San Francisco	4:05	13-3	381.1	(4)	281.8	(2)	29.9	(2)	19.4	(8)
Oct.	18	at Denver	4:05	7-9	298.6	(28)	337.0	(12)	17.6	(28)	19.8	(10)
Oct.	25	L.A. Chargers	1:00	5-11	367.4	(10)	313.1	(6)	21.1	(21)	21.6	(14)
Nov.	1	L.A. Rams	1:00	9-7	374.9	(7)	339.6	(13)	24.6	(11)	22.8	(17)
Nov.	8	at Arizona	4:25	5-10-1	341.7	(21)	402.0	(32)	22.6	(t16)	27.6	(28)
Nov.	15	N.Y. Jets	4:05	7-9	273.0	(32)	323.1	(7)	17.2	(31)	22.4	(16)
	BYE											
Nov.	29	at N.Y. Jets	1:00	7-9	273.0	(32)	323.1	(7)	17.2	(31)	22.4	(16)
Dec.	6	Cincinnati	1:00	2-14	323.1	(26)	393.7	(29)	17.4	(30)	26.2	(25)
Dec.	13	Kansas City	1:00	12-4	379.2	(6)	349.6	(17)	28.2	(5)	19.2	(7)
Dec.	20	New England	1:00	12-4	354.0	(15)	275.9	(1)	26.2	(7)	14.1	(1)
Dec.26/27		at Las Vegas	TBD	7-9	363.7	(11)	354.8	(19)	19.6	(24)	26.2	(24)
Jan.	3	at Buffalo	1:00	10-6	330.2	(24)	298.3	(3)	19.6	(23)	16.2	(2)

Ryan Fitzpatrick

QUARTERBACK

2019 RESULTS (5-11)

Sept.	8	Baltimore	L	10-59
Sept.	15	New England	L	0-43
Sept.	22	at Dallas	L	6-31
Sept.	29	L.A. Chargers	L	10-30
Oct.	13	Washington	L	16-17
Oct.	20	at Buffalo	L	21-31
Oct.	28	at Pittsburgh	L	14-27
Nov.	3	N.Y. Jets	W	26-18
Nov.	10	at Indianapolis	W	16-12
Nov.	17	Buffalo	L	20-37
Nov.	24	at Cleveland	L	24-41
Dec.	1	Philadelphia	W	37-31
Dec.	8	at N.Y. Jets	L	21-22
Dec.	15	at N.Y. Giants	L	20-36
Dec.	22	Cincinnati (ot)	W	38-35
Dec.	29	at New England	W	27-24

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Ryan Fitzpatrick	502	311	3,529	20	13
Josh Rosen	109	58	567	1	5

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Ryan Fitzpatrick	54	243	4.5	4
Mark Walton	53	201	3.8	0
Kenyan Drake	47	174	3.7	0
Patrick Laird	62	168	2.7	1

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
DeVante Parker	72	1,202	16.7	9
Mike Gesicki	51	570	11.2	5
Preston Williams	32	428	13.4	3
Allen Hurns	32	416	13.0	2
Albert Wilson	43	351	8.2	1

KICKING: Jason Sanders, 23-30 FGs, 29-30 PAT, 98 points

TACKLES: Jerome Baker, 126; Eric Rowe, 81

SACKS: Taco Charlton, 5.0; Sam Eguavoen, 3.5

INTERCEPTIONS: Bobby McCain, 2; Steven Parker, 2; Nik Needham, 2

2019 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	310.0	27	13
Rushing	72.2	32	16
Passing	237.8	12	5
Scoring	19.1	25	11
Third Down %	34.3	28	14
Punt Returns	6.6	22	13
Kick Returns	22.1	T17	T8

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	397.8	30	16
Rushing	135.4	27	13
Passing	262.4	26	15
Scoring	30.9	32	16
Interceptions	13	T12	T8
Sacks	23	32	16
Turnover Differential	-10	27	14

Fitzpatrick, Parker: W.E. Smith III

DeVante Parker

quickness. Mike Gesicki, while not a blocker, started to fulfill his receiving potential in his second season.

The backfield is better, too. Rather than watch Kalen Ballage keep plodding for 1.8 yards per carry, the Dolphins added a solid power-speed duo in Jordan Howard and Matt Breida, who should split the workload, with Howard getting many of the goal-line touches. Both have been productive (4.4 and 5.1 per carry, respectively) when on the field, even if both fell out of favor elsewhere (Philadelphia, San Francisco) because they didn't stay on it enough.

DEFENSE When you give up more points than any team in the NFL, and more yards than all but two, it's hard to find positives. But there were some in 2019.

While the Dolphins didn't often play well, they always played hard. They were not heavily penalized, showing discipline that previous Miami teams lacked. They found some useful players on the scrap heap (such as young cornerback Nik Needham and linebacker Vince Biegel), got a bounce-back season from young linebacker Raekwon McMillan and did get better as the season went on — the Dolphins allowed a ridiculous 163 points in the first quarter of the season but later held the Colts to 12 and the Patriots to 24.

And they did the latter after shutting down their shutdown cornerback Xavien Howard. Now Howard returns, to pair with Byron Jones, stolen from Dallas with a major payday ($57 million guaranteed). Jones isn't the thief that Howard is, but few get open against him, and that is necessary until Miami finds a pass rush (just 23 sacks in 2019, worst in the NFL). Brandon Jones, a rookie out of Texas, will have a chance to earn a starting safety spot alongside a returning veteran, Bobby McCain or Eric Rowe, while another rookie, Auburn's Noah Igbinoghene, will likely be the nickel.

That's how Flores defenses are built, with depth in the defensive backfield and less reliance on one premium pass rusher. Still, after giving up on first-round busts Charles Harris and Taco Charlton, the Dolphins appear to have more there too. Shaq Lawson, Emmanuel Ogbah and linebacker Kyle Van Noy, all added in free agency, will be expected to apply some pressure. Van Noy's value should go beyond that. He was a Dolphins target, out of New England, for his knowledge of Flores' schemes, as well as for his intelligence and versatility.

If Van Noy commands attention, that will help Jerome Baker, who showed flashes as a rookie that he could be the next star of the unit but was up and down in 2019.

The strength of the defense, other than the corners, could be the defensive tackles. Christian Wilkens, the 2019 first-round pick, didn't make a lot of big plays as a rookie, but his metrics were impressive, and he improved as the season progressed. Davon Godchaux, playing for a contract extension, has already been a pleasant surprise. And now Miami has added Raekwon Davis, Tagovailoa's former Alabama teammate who looked like a top-10 pick a couple of years ago before leveling off.

SPECIALISTS Punter Matt Haack and kicker Jason Sanders combined to deliver one of the more memorable plays of the season, as Haack passed to Sanders for a touchdown on a fake field goal against Philadelphia. Each returns to his day job this season. Sanders was only OK in 2019, making 8-of-14 kicks outside of 40 yards. Who returns kicks and punts? Probably the speedy Grant, if healthy again.

FINAL ANALYSIS Flores tried to change the culture upon arriving in Davie, Fla., painting the mantra "T.N.T." (for "Takes No Talent") on a wall leading to the practice field, cleaning or phasing out the malcontents and not accepting any media talk of "tanking." What became apparent, as the season progressed, was that his straightforward style and general competence were connecting with his players. And now he has better players. It will take time — and maybe Tua — but the Dolphins should trend upwards somewhat from their surprising 5–11 record. They are probably two seasons and another strong draft (with five picks in the first three rounds in 2021) away from true contention.

2020 VETERAN DOLPHINS ROSTER

	QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
14	Fitzpatrick, Ryan	QB	6-2	228	15	Harvard	FA-TB-19	D7-LAR-05
3	Rosen, Josh	QB	6-4	215	2	UCLA	T-Ari-19	D1-Ari-18
5	Rudock, Jake	QB	6-3	212	4	Michigan	FA-19	D6-Det-16

	RUNNING BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
27	Ballage, Kalen	RB	6-2	231	2	Arizona State	D4b-18	D4b-Mia-18
20	Breida, Matt	RB	5-11	195	3	Georgia Southern	T-SF-20	FA-SF-17
38	Cox, Chandler	FB	6-1	240	1	Auburn	D7a-19	D7a-Mia-19
37	Gaskin, Myles	RB	5-10	200	1	Washington	D7b-19	D7b-Mia-19
34	Howard, Jordan	RB	6-0	224	4	Indiana	FA-Phi-20	D5-Chi-16
42	Laird, Patrick	RB	6-0	205	1	California	FA-19	FA-Mia-19
34	Turner, De'Lance	RB	5-11	214	2	Alcorn State	FA-19	FA-Bal-18

	RECEIVERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
84	Ford, Isaiah	WR	6-2	194	2	Virginia Tech	D7-17	D7-Mia-17
88	Gesicki, Mike	TE	6-6	250	2	Penn State	D2-18	D2-Mia-18
19	Grant, Jakeem	WR	5-7	171	4	Texas Tech	D6a-16	D6a-Mia-16
86	Hollins, Mack	WR	6-4	221	3	North Carolina	W-Phi-19	D4-Phi-17
17	Hurns, Allen	WR	6-3	195	6	Miami	FA-19	FA-Jac-14
16	Jennings, Gary	WR	6-1	215	1	West Virginia	W-Sea-19	D4-Sea-19
82	Jones, Andy	WR	6-1	217	2	Jacksonville	FA-19	FA-Dal-16
80	Louis, Ricardo	WR	6-2	215	4	Auburn	FA-19	D4-Cle-16
85	Myarick, Chris	TE	6-5	255	1	Temple	FA-19	FA-Mia-19
11	Parker, DeVante	WR	6-3	216	5	Louisville	D1-15	D1-Mia-15
89	Roberts, Michael	TE	6-5	265	2	Toledo	FA-20	D4-Det-17
81	Smythe, Durham	TE	6-6	260	2	Notre Dame	D4a-18	D4a-Mia-18
18	Williams, Preston	WR	6-5	218	1	Colorado State	FA-19	FA-Mia-19
15	Wilson, Albert	WR	5-9	195	6	Georgia State	FA-KC-18	FA-KC-14
83	Wright, Terry	WR	5-10	177	1	Purdue	FA-19	FA-Sea-19

	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
62	Calhoun, Shaq	G	6-3	310	1	Mississippi State	FA-19	FA-Mia-19
70	Davenport, Julién	T	6-7	325	3	Bucknell	T-Hou-19	D4-Hou-17
77	Davis, Jesse	G/T	6-6	325	3	Idaho	FA-17	FA-Sea-15
63	Deiter, Michael	G	6-6	310	1	Wisconsin	D3-19	D3-Mia-19
75	Flowers Sr., Ereck	G	6-6	330	5	Miami	FA-Was-20	D1-NYG-15
65	Isidora, Danny	G	6-3	306	3	Miami	T-Min-19	D5-Min-17
67	Karras, Ted	C	6-4	305	4	Illinois	FA-NE-20	D6c-NE-16
78	Pankey, Adam	T	6-5	313	2	West Virginia	W-GB-19	FA-GB-17
74	Sutherland, Keaton	C/G	6-5	315	1	Texas A&M	W-Cin-19	FA-Cin-19

	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
56	Godchaux, Davon	DT	6-3	311	3	LSU	D5b-17	D5b-Mia-17
90	Lawson, Shaq	DE	6-3	267	4	Clemson	FA-Buf-20	D1-Buf-16
98	Ledbetter, Jonathan	DE	6-4	280	1	Georgia	FA-19	FA-Mia-19
93	Moss, Avery	DE	6-3	271	2	Youngstown St.	W-NYG-19	D5-NYG-17
91	Ogbah, Emmanuel	DE	6-4	275	4	Oklahoma State	FA-KC-20	D2-Cle-16
69	Queiroz Neto, Durval	DT	6-4	330	1	None	FA-19	FA-Mia-19
92	Sieler, Zach	DT	6-6	290	2	Ferris State	W-Bal-19	D7-Bal-18
94	Wilkins, Christian	DT	6-4	315	1	Clemson	D1-19	D1-Mia-19

	LINEBACKERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
55	Baker, Jerome	LB	6-2	225	2	Ohio State	D3-18	D3-Mia-18
47	Biegel, Vince	LB	6-3	246	3	Wisconsin	T-NO-19	D4-GB-17
50	Carlock, Jake	LB	6-3	225	1	LIU Post	FA-19	FA-NYG-19
51	Crawford, James	LB	6-2	239	2	Illinois	W-GB-19	FA-GB-18
49	Eguavoen, Sam	LB	6-0	236	1	Texas Tech	FA-19	FA-Mia-19
51	Grugier-Hill, Kamu	LB	6-2	230	4	Eastern Illinois	FA-Phi-20	D6-NE-16
97	Harris, Trent	LB	6-2	255	1	Miami	W-NE-19	FA-NE-18
52	McMillan, Raekwon	LB	6-2	242	3	Ohio State	D2-17	D2-Mia-17
48	Munson, Calvin	LB	6-0	245	2	San Diego State	FA-19	FA-NYG-17
44	Roberts, Elandon	LB	6-0	238	4	Houston	FA-NE-20	D6b-NE-16
43	Van Ginkel, Andrew	LB	6-4	242	1	Wisconsin	D5-19	D5-Mia-19
53	Van Noy, Kyle	LB	6-3	250	6	BYU	FA-NE-20	D2-Det-14

	DEFENSIVE BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
30	Brooks, Nate	DB	6-0	192	1	North Texas	FA-19	FA-Ari-19
36	Colbert, Adrian	S	6-2	205	3	Miami	FA-19	D7-SF-17
42	Fejedelem, Clayton	S	6-0	205	4	Illinois	FA-Cin-20	D7-Cin-16
35	Frazier, Kavon	S	6-0	223	4	Central Michigan	FA-Dal-20	D6b-Dal-16
22	Hayes, Tae	CB	5-9	188	1	Appalachian State	W-Jac-19	FA-Jac-19
25	Howard, Xavien	CB	6-1	198	4	Baylor	D2-16	D2-Mia-16
24	Jones, Byron	CB	6-1	200	5	Connecticut	FA-Dal-20	D1-Dal-15
24	Lewis, Ryan	CB	6-0	185	2	Pittsburgh	W-Phi-19	FA-Ari-17
28	McCain, Bobby	S	5-11	192	5	Memphis	D5a-15	D5a-Mia-15
40	Needham, Nik	CB	6-0	193	1	UTEP	FA-19	FA-Mia-19
26	Parker, Steven	S	6-1	210	1	Oklahoma	W-LAR-19	FA-LAR-18
21	Rowe, Eric	S	6-1	205	5	Utah	FA-NE-19	D2-Phi-15
23	Tankersley, Cordrea	CB	6-1	200	3	Clemson	D3-17	D3-Mia-17
31	Webster, Ken	CB	5-11	202	1	Ole Miss	W-NE-19	D7-NE-19
33	Wiltz, Jomal	CB	5-10	180	1	Iowa State	FA-19	FA-Phi-17

	SPECIALISTS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
2	Haack, Matt	P	6-0	205	3	Arizona State	FA-17	FA-Mia-17
7	Sanders, Jason	K	5-11	186	2	New Mexico	D7b-18	D7b-Mia-18

Scouting the Dolphins

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP MIAMI "Given the worst roster in the NFL, Brian Flores proved he could still find ways to win. The team showed resiliency, led by journeyman QB Ryan Fitzpatrick. With them drafting Tua Tagovailoa to be their QB of the future, what does this mean for Josh Rosen? … The team retooled their roster when they traded Pro Bowl LT Laremy Tunsil to the Texans for two years of top draft picks, but they made mistakes by trading away potential Defensive Player of the Year DB Minkah Fitzpatrick and dynamic RB Kenyan Drake. … They signed power RB Jordan Howard and traded for RB Matt Breida to improve the league's worst rushing attack. After playing like a top-10 WR, DeVante Parker got a contract extension. They found a gem in undrafted WR Preston Williams, and with the emergence of TE Mike Gesicki, expect this to be a solid receiving unit this season. This is a bottom-three OL, and therefore they signed OG Ereck Flowers and drafted OT Austin Jackson in the first round. … They're satisfied with DTs Davon Godchaux and Christian Wilkins, but due to the lack of edge rushers, they signed division rivals Shaq Lawson and Kyle Van Noy. They're excited with the young ILB duo of Jerome Baker and Raekwon McMillan, but someone will need to emerge as the leader of this defense. … The addition of CB Byron Jones with top-five CB Xavien Howard makes this the highest-paid CB duo in the NFL. They converted nickel Bobby McCain and CB Eric Rowe to safety hoping they could become reliable starters. … They found quality role players last season, with low expectations, but now their plan is in motion, and it's on GM Chris Grier to get it right and capitalize."

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
RB	Matt Breida	San Francisco
OG	Ereck Flowers	Washington
RB	Jordan Howard	Philadelphia
CB	Byron Jones	Dallas
DE	Shaq Lawson	Buffalo
DE	Emmanuel Ogbah	Kansas City
LB	Kyle Van Noy	New England

KEY LOSSES -

POS.	PLAYER	2020 TEAM
DE	Taco Charlton	Kansas City
DE	Charles Harris	Atlanta
SS	Reshad Jones	Free Agent

Offseason Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR	11	DeVante Parker	84	Isaiah Ford
WR	18	Preston Williams	17	Allen Hurns
WR	15	Albert Wilson	19	Jakeem Grant
LT	73	Austin Jackson (R)	75	Ereck Flowers
LG	75	Ereck Flowers	62	Shaq Calhoun
C	67	Ted Karras	63	Michael Deiter
RG	77	Jesse Davis	66	Solomon Kindley (R)
RT	68	Robert Hunt (R)	70	Julién Davenport
TE	88	Mike Gesicki	81	Durham Smythe
QB	14	Ryan Fitzpatrick	1	Tua Tagovailoa (R)
RB	34	Jordan Howard	20	Matt Breida

DEFENSE

DE	90	Shaq Lawson	96	Curtis Weaver (R)
DT	56	Davon Godchaux	98	Raekwon Davis (R)
DT	94	Christian Wilkins	92	Zach Sieler
DE	91	Emmanuel Ogbah	58	Jason Strowbridge (R)
LB	53	Kyle Van Noy	47	Vince Biegel
LB	52	Raekwon McMillan	49	Sam Eguavoen
LB	55	Jerome Baker	43	Andrew Van Ginkel
CB	24	Byron Jones	40	Nik Needham
CB	25	Xavien Howard	46	Noah Igbinoghene (R)
S	21	Eric Rowe	42	Clayton Fejedelem
S	28	Bobby McCain	45	Brandon Jones (R)

SPECIALISTS

K	7	Jason Sanders	KR 19 Jakeem Grant
P	2	Matt Haack	PR 19 Jakeem Grant

Dolphins *in the Draft* | Grade: A

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	**Tua Tagovailoa**	**QB**	**6-0**	**217**	**Alabama**
1.	Austin Jackson	OT	6-5	317	USC
1.	Noah Igbinoghene	CB	5-11	197	Auburn
2.	Robert Hunt	OT	6-6	323	Louisiana
2.	Raekwon Davis	DT	6-7	313	Alabama
3.	Brandon Jones	S	6-0	191	Texas
4.	Solomon Kindley	OG	6-4	339	Georgia
5.	Jason Strowbridge	DE	6-5	273	North Carolina
5.	Curtis Weaver	DE	6-3	265	Boise State
6.	Blake Ferguson	C/LS	6-3	226	LSU
7.	Malcolm Perry	WR	5-10	181	Navy

This draft will hinge mostly on whether Tua Tagovailoa stays healthy and assumes the mantle of franchise face, even if that may not begin in earnest until 2021. And when it does, the Dolphins hope to have three widebodies from this class protecting him: Austin Jackson, Robert Hunt and Solomon Kindley. Noah Igbinoghene should get plenty of early snaps in the slot, and Brandon Jones' intelligence and power should give him a crack at starting strong safety. Raekwon Davis and Curtis Weaver add to a defensive line thinned by offseason releases. The second-most intriguing prospect may be the last picked. Malcolm Perry seems a lot like versatile, problematic matchup players that the Patriots have deployed over the years.

Harrison McClary

Outside the Huddle

GREATNESS ON GREATNESS The Miami Dolphins and Miami Heat have had a bit of sibling rivalry. But on the day of the passing of Dolphins and NFL legend Don Shula, Heat president Pat Riley took a moment to commemorate the coach known as The Jaw. "There was no better man or coach in the history of the profession than Coach Don Shula. He was tough, courageous and an authentic leader with great integrity in his pursuit of perfection, which he achieved!"

IT TAKES TUA The Miami Dolphins have been a star-free team for nearly two decades. So it was significant that in the first week after he was drafted, rookie quarterback Tua Tagovailoa was first (aqua) and second (white) in jersey sales on NFLshop.com. Third? Tom Brady in Tampa Bay. New eras everywhere.

STILL IGNORED Even with Tua, though, the Dolphins didn't get much of a look from the networks. They have just one prime-time game (vs. Jacksonville). That is also the Jaguars' only such featured contest. Washington and Detroit are the only teams without one on the schedule. Eight teams have five; seven teams have four. Even the New York Jets have two.

PROUD SON When Brian Flores finally got his first NFL win, on November 3, 2019, against former Dolphins coach Adam Gase and the New York Jets, he dedicated the win to his mother Maria, who died in March due to cancer. "She's been my good luck charm for a long time," Flores said. "This is my first season of football without her. She's the first person who came to mind."

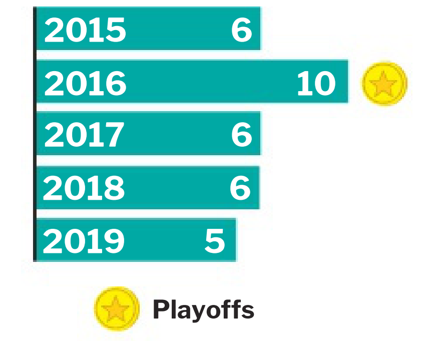
BACK TO THROWBACKS? Dolphins fans have been vocal in their desire for a return to the franchise's classic colors and uniforms, even creating petitions to convince the Dolphins to change. But the organization has been limited by NFL rules about jersey changes, so the team will likely wear them only three times this season. Dolphins president Tom Garfinkel asked fans on Twitter to decide on the three games.

STAYING STATESIDE Once again, the Dolphins were scheduled to forgo a home game to play in London. The Dolphins were 1–3 in previous international games, last losing 20–0 to the Saints in 2017. But with the COVID-19 crisis, all out-of-country contests were canceled. So the game was returned to Hard Rock Stadium.

END OF AN ERA The defining moment of the 2019 season? It had to be the season finale in Foxborough, won by the Dolphins 27–24 in what turned out to be Tom Brady's last regular-season game as a Patriot, after Brady had tormented the Dolphins for two decades. The Patriots' loss ended their streak of nine straight first-round byes. This season, the Dolphins open in Foxborough.

READY TO GO It remains to be seen when Tagovailoa will take the reins of the Dolphins offense, but he says not to let his health be of any concern. "What makes me confident in being able to play is what the doctors have told me," Tagovailoa said after he was drafted. "As far as rehab, as far as the medical re-checks, I've checked off all the boxes. So I've been really encouraged that I'm able to play if need be."

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



NUMBERS TO KNOW

45.6

A league-high 45.6 percent of Miami's defensive drives ended in their opponent scoring.

254.6

The Dolphins averaged 254.6 total offensive yards per game in their first seven games, all losses. They averaged 353.1 in their last nine, winning five of them.

3.3

Miami had the fewest rush attempts in the NFL and averaged just 3.3 ypc when they did run.

New England PATRIOTS

AFC East Forecast: 2

THE ORGANIZATION

Chairman/CEO: Robert Kraft
President: Jonathan Kraft
Director of Player Personnel: Nick Caserio
General Manager: Bill Belichick
Stadium: Gillette Stadium (68,756)
Surface: FieldTurf
Website: www.patriots.com
Tickets: 800-543-1776
Training Camp: Gillette Stadium (Foxborough, Mass.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Bill Belichick
Record With Team: 237-83
Career Record: 273-127
Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks: Josh McDaniels
Defensive Coordinator: TBD
Special Teams Coordinator: TBD
Running Backs: Ivan Fears
Wide Receivers: TBD
Tight Ends: Nick Caley
Offensive Line: Cole Popovich, Carmen Bricillo
Defensive Line: TBD
Inside Linebackers: Jerod Mayo
Outside Linebackers: DeMarcus Covington
Cornerbacks: Mike Pellegrino
Secondary/Safeties: Steve Belichick

The Patriots are turning back the clock to a tried and true formula for success, one that kick-started the NFL's most dominant dynasty some 20 years ago and was the key to its first three Super Bowl wins: a dominant defense complemented by an efficient offense and opportunistic special teams play.

A defense that allowed a league-low 14.1 points per game a year ago received a boost of youthful enthusiasm and speed through the draft. The team's top three selections could contribute right away, bolstering a front seven weakened by some free agent defections.

If things fall just right, the club that has won 11 straight AFC East titles could be in position to make it an even dozen, extending the gloomy outlooks for at least one more year in Orchard Park, East Rutherford and Miami Gardens.

OFFENSE Bill Belichick eschewed using one of his draft picks on a quarterback, and that was more of an endorsement of sophomore Jarrett Stidham than an indictment of this year's class. Stidham saw very little playing time as a rookie, which is standard operating procedure for Tom Brady understudies, so there's very little tape to go on. However, Stidham received high marks from his coaches for the way he not only ran the scout team but also the first team. Brady's practice time was limited last year as the team managed his wear and tear while he nursed a nagging elbow injury. This gave Stidham the chance to get meaningful reps against one of the league's stingiest (and most complicated) defenses. By all accounts, Stidham handled the pressure situations, which included some tough love coaching, with flying colors.

The offense has a chance to be more wide open under Stidham, who built a rapport with receivers (and fellow rookies) N'Keal Harry and Jakobi Meyers last season. Brady relied heavily on dependable veterans Julian Edelman and James White, often bypassing secondary options because of a lack of trust. Edelman and White still will get their touches, but expect Stidham to spread the wealth more by getting everyone involved. Edelman, White, Mohamed Sanu Sr. and Damiere Byrd all excel at getting open quickly, and that will go a long way toward getting Stidham comfortable in the driver's seat. New England did a draft double-dip by grabbing tight ends Devin Asiasi and Dalton Keene. Both will provide punch as receivers and blockers at a position that was punchless last season following Rob Gronkowski's retirement.

The ground game should see a bounce-back behind the return to health of the offensive line and the incorporation of fullback Dan Vitale. Center David Andrews (blood clots in his lungs) missed the season, and every other starter up front except left guard Joe Thuney missed time. Andrews is a smart and rugged tone-setter. He's an elite tactician and will help ease the transition to Stidham. Guards Thuney and Shaq Mason are solid body movers who rely on strength and leverage to open pathways. Left tackle Isaiah Wynn has battled injuries but has flashed athleticism and power when healthy. Right tackle Marcus Cannon, heading into his 10th year, could get pushed by Yodny Cajuste in camp.

New England's running back room is deep. Nobody felt James Develin's absence following his season-ending neck injury in Week 2 more than Sony Michel, who often followed the now-retired burly fullback into the trenches. Michel is an instinctive runner with good vision. He scored only two touchdowns in the final 10 games of 2019 (including playoffs) and averaged 3.7 yards per carry for the season. White is among

2020 SCHEDULE

				2019 NFL RANKINGS								
Date		Opponent	Time	2019 Record	Total Offense		Total Defense		Scoring Offense		Scoring Defense	
Sept.	13	Miami	1:00	5-11	310.0	(27)	397.8	(30)	19.1	(25)	30.9	(32)
Sept.	20	at Seattle	8:20	11-5	374.4	(8)	381.6	(26)	25.3	(9)	24.9	(22)
Sept.	27	Las Vegas	1:00	7-9	363.7	(11)	354.8	(19)	19.6	(24)	26.2	(24)
Oct.	4	at Kansas City	4:25	12-4	379.2	(6)	349.6	(17)	28.2	(5)	19.2	(7)
Oct.	11	Denver	1:00	7-9	298.6	(28)	337.0	(12)	17.6	(28)	19.8	(10)
	BYE											
Oct.	25	San Francisco	4:25	13-3	381.1	(4)	281.8	(2)	29.9	(2)	19.4	(8)
Nov.	1	at Buffalo	1:00	10-6	330.2	(24)	298.3	(3)	19.6	(23)	16.2	(2)
Nov.	9	at N.Y. Jets (Mon.)	8:15	7-9	273.0	(32)	323.1	(7)	17.2	(31)	22.4	(16)
Nov.	15	Baltimore	8:20	14-2	407.6	(2)	300.6	(4)	33.2	(1)	17.6	(3)
Nov.	22	at Houston	1:00	10-6	362.0	(13)	388.3	(28)	23.6	(14)	24.1	(19)
Nov.	29	Arizona	1:00	5-10-1	341.7	(21)	402.0	(32)	22.6	(t16)	27.6	(28)
Dec.	6	at L.A. Chargers	4:25	5-11	367.4	(10)	313.1	(6)	21.1	(21)	21.6	(14)
Dec.	10	at L.A. Rams (Thu.)	8:20	9-7	374.9	(7)	339.6	(13)	24.6	(11)	22.8	(17)
Dec.	20	at Miami	1:00	5-11	310.0	(27)	397.8	(30)	19.1	(25)	30.9	(32)
Dec.	28	Buffalo (Mon.)	8:15	10-6	330.2	(24)	298.3	(3)	19.6	(23)	16.2	(2)
Jan.	3	N.Y. Jets	1:00	7-9	273.0	(32)	323.1	(7)	17.2	(31)	22.4	(16)

Winslow Townson/Panini via AP

Julian Edelman

WIDE RECEIVER

2019 RESULTS (12-4)

Sept.	8	Pittsburgh	W	33-3
Sept.	15	at Miami	W	43-0
Sept.	22	N.Y. Jets	W	30-14
Sept.	29	at Buffalo	W	16-10
Oct.	6	at Washington	W	33-7
Oct.	10	N.Y. Giants	W	35-14
Oct.	21	at N.Y. Jets	W	33-0
Oct.	27	Cleveland	W	27-13
Nov.	3	at Baltimore	L	20-37
Nov.	17	at Philadelphia	W	17-10
Nov.	24	Dallas	W	13-9
Dec.	1	at Houston	L	22-28
Dec.	8	Kansas City	L	16-23
Dec.	15	at Cincinnati	W	34-13
Dec.	21	Buffalo	W	24-17
Dec.	29	Miami	L	24-27
POSTSEASON				
Jan.	4	Tennessee	L	13-20

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Tom Brady	613	373	4,057	24	8

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Sony Michel	247	912	3.7	7
Rex Burkhead	65	302	4.7	3
James White	67	263	3.9	1
Brandon Bolden	15	68	4.5	3

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Julian Edelman	100	1,117	11.2	6
James White	72	645	9.0	5
Phillip Dorsett	29	397	13.7	5
Jakobi Meyers	26	359	13.8	0
Josh Gordon	20	287	13.4	1

KICKING: Nick Folk, 14-17 FGs, 12-12 PAT, 54 points; Stephen Gostkowski, 7-8 FGs, 11-15 PAT, 32 points; Mike Nugent, 5-8 FGs, 15-16 PAT, 30 points

TACKLES: Jamie Collins, 81; Dont'a Hightower, 71

SACKS: Jamie Collins, 7.0; Kyle Van Noy, 6.5

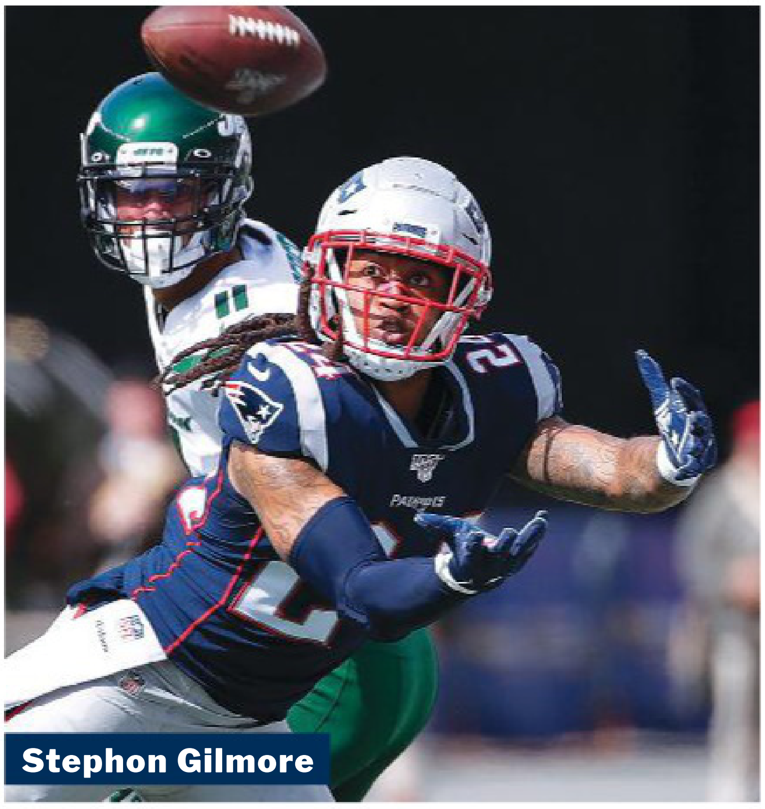
INTERCEPTIONS: Stephon Gilmore, 6; two tied with 5

2019 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	354.0	15	7
Rushing	106.4	18	9
Passing	247.6	8	3
Scoring	26.2	7	3
Third Down %	38.3	18	8
Punt Returns	8.0	T9	6
Kick Returns	22.1	T17	T8

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	275.9	1	1
Rushing	95.5	6	3
Passing	180.4	2	1
Scoring	14.1	1	1
Interceptions	25	1	1
Sacks	47	T7	T2
Turnover Differential	+21	1	1

the top pass-catching backs in the league. He can line up anywhere in coordinator Josh McDaniels' attack and uses his soft hands and quick feet to break ankles and move the sticks. Veteran Rex Burkhead is a dual-threat back who uses deceptive power to push the pile and nice hands to produce in space. Damien Harris barely played as a rookie, but after a year in the program, he could challenge Burkhead for snaps. Harris has a nice initial burst and maintains power through his runs. He caught 52 passes in college, so he can contribute on all three downs.



Stephon Gilmore

AP Photo/Elise Amendola

DEFENSE Assigning a specific scheme to this squad is just silly. Want to call it a 4-3? Go ahead. A 3-4? Sure, that's fine, too. Truth is, this front seven is loaded with adaptable guys at the point of attack and at the second level, and they play in so many subpackages that labeling them is a waste of time. New England values intelligence and versatility first and foremost, as it asks its defenders to be flexible with their responsibilities from game to game, series to series and play to play.

On early downs, the powerful Lawrence Guy and Beau Allen will defend on the interior. In pass-rush subpackages, Guy slides to an end position, and Adam Butler provides a disruptive inside presence. John Simon has been superb at setting the edge, and Chase Winovich, a pass-rush specialist a year ago, will see his role increase this year. Rookies Josh Uche and Anfernee Jennings are outside linebacker/defensive end hybrids who fit the multiple role mold. The pair get the benefit of on-the-job learning from Dont'a Hightower, one of New England's most impactful and flexible defenders over the last decade. Like Hightower, Uche and Jennings will be used on the line as pass rushers and off the ball to defend the run or drop into coverage.

The Patriots secondary is the primary source of frustration for defensive coordinators and quarterbacks. Headache No. 1 is Stephon Gilmore, the top cornerback in the league and reigning Defensive Player of the Year. Gilmore's size, length, mirror skills and closing burst allow him to cover targets of all shapes, sizes and skill sets. He routinely erases opponents' top receivers without help. J.C. Jackson and Jason McCourty split the other boundary corner depending on the matchup. Jackson's speed and stickiness make him one of the best deep ball cover corners in the league. He tracks the ball well and will make acrobatic interceptions. McCourty is a dependable veteran with savvy and strength. He's rarely out of place. Jonathan Jones' short burst and deceptive strength make him an ideal nickel corner. Joejuan Williams' size (6'3", 212 pounds) is unique for the position, and he could be used as a matchup solution against bigger receivers. Devin McCourty and Patrick Chung are among the most valuable and versatile (there's that word again) safety duos in the league. Both possess good cover skills and hit like Mack trucks. Top pick Kyle Dugger has the same traits and could transition right into New England's many three-safety sets.

SPECIALISTS The Patriots made Justin Rohrwasser the first kicker taken in the draft (fifth round), following in the steps of Stephen Gostkowski — the franchise's all-time leading scorer. Rohrwasser grew up in Upstate New York and kicked at Rhode Island (just down the road a piece from Gillette Stadium) and Marshall, so foul weather is nothing new to him. Jake Bailey handled punting and kickoff duties with aplomb as a rookie, and that should continue. Matthew Slater and Justin Bethel are two of the best kick coverage players in the league. Brandon Bolden doubles as one of the best open-field hitters on the squad and the kick returner. Dugger will get a chance to win the punt return job.

FINAL ANALYSIS The AFC East is loaded with talented young quarterbacks. The key word being young. Belichick's ability to come up with unique and varied looks (while disguising them to look the same during pre-snap reads) to flummox and frustrate inexperienced signal-callers makes him the most valuable field general in this division and the entire NFL. Stidham — another talented young QB — will take his lumps, but he'll be supported by a solid line, a potent running game and an offensive coordinator in McDaniels who will put him in the best position to succeed.

Scouting the Patriots

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP NEW ENGLAND "Head coach Bill Belichick and offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels will try to prove the critics wrong who have already counted this team out. ... Expect QB Jarrett Stidham to be the starter, but QB Brian Hoyer was brought back for his third stint with the team for solid competition. They still have a reliable playmaker in RB James White, but the team's offensive philosophy will go through RB Sony Michel. The receivers were huge disappointments, with the only consistent option being WR Julian Edelman, but expect more production from WRs N'Keal Harry, Mohamed Sanu Sr. and Jakobi Meyers moving forward. ... The retirement of iconic OL coach Dante Scarnecchia will be impactful, but overall, this is a top-10 group that brought back All-Pro OG Joe Thuney to keep this unit intact. ... Statistically, the Patriots had the No. 1-ranked defense, a group that created 36 turnovers, but it trended downward the final two games. They lost Kyle Van Noy to the Dolphins, but expect a big year from relentless edge Chase Winovich. LB Dont'a Hightower struggled, and with Jamie Collins leaving in free agency, expect ILB Ja'Whaun Bentley to step up. ... This was the league's best overall DB unit, led by safety Devin McCourty and the Defensive Player of the Year, CB Stephon Gilmore. ... Overall, this organization still has a strong culture but a different vibe; it'll be an intriguing season for sure."

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
DT	Beau Allen	Tampa Bay
WR	Damiere Byrd	Arizona
LB	Brandon Copeland	N.Y. Jets
S	Cody Davis	Jacksonville
QB	Brian Hoyer	Indianapolis
S	Adrian Phillips	L.A. Chargers
WR	Marqise Lee	Jacksonville
FB	Dan Vitale	Green Bay

KEY LOSSES −

POS.	PLAYER	2020 TEAM
QB	Tom Brady	Tampa Bay
LB	Jamie Collins	Detroit
FB	James Develin	Retired
S	Nate Ebner	N.Y. Giants
K	Stephen Gostkowski	Free Agent
S	Duron Harmon	Detroit
G/C	Ted Karras	Miami
LB	Elandon Roberts	Miami
DT	Danny Shelton	Detroit
LB	Kyle Van Noy	Miami

Offseason Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR	11	Julian Edelman		Damiere Byrd
WR	15	N'Keal Harry		Marqise Lee
WR	14	Mohamed Sanu Sr.	16	Jakobi Meyers
LT	76	Isaiah Wynn	63	Yodny Cajuste
LG	62	Joe Thuney	65	Jermaine Eluemunor
C	60	David Andrews		Dustin Woodard (R)
RG	69	Shaq Mason		Michael Onwenu (R)
RT	61	Marcus Cannon	74	Korey Cunningham
TE	83	Matt LaCosse		Devin Asiasi (R)
QB	4	Jarrett Stidham		Brian Hoyer
RB	26	Sony Michel	28	James White

DEFENSE

LDE	93	Lawrence Guy	91	Deatrich Wise Jr.
DT		Beau Allen	70	Adam Butler
RDE	55	John Simon	90	Shilique Calhoun
OLB	50	Chase Winovich		Josh Uche (R)
ILB	54	Dont'a Hightower	59	Terez Hall
ILB	51	Ja'Whaun Bentley		Cassh Maluia (R)
OLB		Brandon Copeland		Anfernee Jennings (R)
CB	30	Jason McCourty	27	J.C. Jackson
CB	24	Stephon Gilmore	31	Jonathan Jones
S	32	Devin McCourty		Adrian Phillips
S	23	Patrick Chung	25	Terrence Brooks

SPECIALISTS

K		Justin Rohrwasser (R)	KR	38	Brandon Bolden
P	7	Jake Bailey	PR		Kyle Dugger (R)

2020 VETERAN PATRIOTS ROSTER

	QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
	Hoyer, Brian	QB	6-2	216	11	Michigan State	FA-Ind-20	FA-NE-09
4	Stidham, Jarrett	QB	6-3	215	1	Auburn	D4b-19	D4b-NE-19

	RUNNING BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
38	Bolden, Brandon	RB	5-11	220	8	Ole Miss	FA-Mia-19	FA-NE-12
34	Burkhead, Rex	RB	5-10	215	7	Nebraska	FA-Cin-17	D6a-Cin-13
37	Harris, Damien	RB	5-11	213	1	Alabama	D3b-19	D3b-NE-19
47	Johnson, Jakob	FB	6-3	255	1	Tennessee	FA-19	FA-NE-19
26	Michel, Sony	RB	5-11	215	2	Georgia	D1b-18	D1b-NE-18
	Vitale, Danny	FB	6-0	239	4	Northwestern	FA-GB-20	D6-TB-16
28	White, James	RB	5-10	205	6	Wisconsin	D4b-14	D4b-NE-14

	RECEIVERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
10	Adeboyejo, Quincy	WR	6-3	200	2	Ole Miss	FA-19	FA-Bal-17
	Byrd, Damiere	WR	5-9	180	4	South Carolina	FA-Ari-20	FA-Car-15
11	Edelman, Julian	WR	5-10	198	11	Kent State	D7a-09	D7a-NE-09
15	Harry, N'Keal	WR	6-4	225	1	Arizona State	D1-19	D1-NE-19
85	Izzo, Ryan	TE	6-5	255	2	Florida State	D7c-18	D7c-NE-18
83	LaCosse, Matt	TE	6-6	255	4	Illinois	FA-Den-19	FA-NYG-15
	Lee, Marqise	WR	6-0	196	6	USC	FA-Jac-20	D2a-Jac-14
16	Meyers, Jakobi	WR	6-2	200	1	NC State	FA-19	FA-NE-19
80	Olszewski, Gunner	WR	6-0	190	1	Bemidji State	FA-19	FA-NE-19
17	Ross, Devin	WR	5-9	192	1	Colorado	FA-19	FA-Ten-18
14	Sanu Sr., Mohamed	WR	6-2	210	8	Rutgers	T-Atl-19	D3-Cin-12
18	Slater, Matthew	WR	6-0	205	12	UCLA	D5-08	D5-NE-08

	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
60	Andrews, David	OL	6-3	300	5	Georgia	FA-15	FA-NE-15
63	Cajuste, Yodny	OL	6-5	310	1	West Virginia	D3c-19	D3c-NE-19
61	Cannon, Marcus	OL	6-6	335	9	TCU	D5a-11	D5a-NE-11
74	Cunningham, Korey	OL	6-6	311	2	Cincinnati	T-Ari-19	D7-Ari-18
65	Eluemunor, Jermaine	OL	6-4	335	3	Texas A&M	T-Bal-19	D5-Bal-17
66	Ferentz, James	OL	6-2	300	4	Iowa	FA-17	FA-Hou-14
64	Froholdt, Hjalte	OL	6-5	310	1	Arkansas	D4-19	D4-NE-19
69	Mason, Shaq	OL	6-1	310	5	Georgia Tech	D4c-15	D4c-NE-15
62	Thuney, Joe	OL	6-5	308	4	NC State	D3a-16	D3a-NE-16
68	Toran, Najee	OL	6-2	305	1	UCLA	FA-19	FA-SF-18
76	Wynn, Isaiah	OL	6-2	310	2	Georgia	D1a-18	D1a-NE-18

	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
	Allen, Beau	DL	6-3	327	6	Wisconsin	FA-TB-20	D7-Phi-14
96	Bower, Tashawn	DL	6-5	250	3	LSU	FA-19	FA-Min-17
70	Butler, Adam	DL	6-5	300	3	Vanderbilt	FA-17	FA-NE-17
90	Calhoun, Shilique	DL	6-4	260	4	Michigan State	FA-19	D3-LV-16
99	Cowart, Byron	DL	6-3	300	1	Maryland	D5a-19	D5a-NE-19
93	Guy, Lawrence	DL	6-4	315	9	Arizona State	FA-Bal-17	D7-GB-11
95	Rivers, Derek	DL	6-5	250	3	Youngstown State	D3a-17	D3a-NE-17
55	Simon, John	DL	6-2	260	7	Ohio State	FA-18	D4-Bal-13
92	Thurman, Nick	DL	6-4	305	1	Houston	FA-19	FA-Hou-18
91	Wise Jr., Deatrich	DL	6-5	275	3	Arkansas	D4-17	D4-NE-17

	LINEBACKERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
51	Bentley, Ja'Whaun	LB	6-2	255	2	Purdue	D5-18	D5-NE-18
	Copeland, Brandon	LB	6-3	263	5	Pennsylvania	FA-NYJ-20	FA-Bal-13
59	Hall, Terez	LB	6-2	235	1	Missouri	FA-19	FA-NE-19
54	Hightower, Dont'a	LB	6-3	260	8	Alabama	D1b-12	D1b-NE-12
36	King, Brandon	LB	6-2	220	5	Auburn	FA-15	FA-NE-15
50	Winovich, Chase	LB	6-3	250	1	Michigan	D3a-19	D3a-NE-19

	DEFENSIVE BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
29	Bethel, Justin	DB	6-0	200	8	Presbyterian	FA-19	D6-Ari-12
25	Brooks, Terrence	DB	5-11	205	6	Florida State	FA-NYJ-19	D3-Bal-14
23	Chung, Patrick	S	5-11	215	11	Oregon	FA-14	D2a-NE-09
	Davis, Cody	S	6-2	203	7	Texas Tech	FA-Jac-20	FA-LAR-13
42	Gant, Malik	DB	6-2	203	1	Marshall	FA-19	FA-NE-19
24	Gilmore, Stephon	CB	6-1	202	8	South Carolina	FA-Buf-17	D1-Buf-12
27	Jackson, J.C.	DB	6-1	198	2	Maryland	FA-18	FA-NE-18
31	Jones, Jonathan	DB	5-10	190	4	Auburn	FA-16	FA-NE-16
32	McCourty, Devin	DB	5-10	195	10	Rutgers	D1-10	D1-NE-10
30	McCourty, Jason	CB	5-11	195	11	Rutgers	T-Cle-18	D6-Ten-09
	Phillips, Adrian	S	5-11	210	5	Texas	FA-LAC-20	FA-LAC-14
35	Pickett, Adarius	DB	5-11	198	1	UCLA	FA-19	FA-Chi-19
41	Pipkins, Lenzy	CB	6-0	196	2	Oklahoma State	FA-20	FA-GB-17
39	Ross, D'Angelo	DB	5-9	190	1	New Mexico	FA-19	FA-NE-19
33	Williams, Joejuan	CB	6-3	212	1	Vanderbilt	D2-19	D2-NE-19

	SPECIALISTS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
7	Bailey, Jake	P	6-2	205	1	Stanford	D5b-19	D5b-NE-19
49	Cardona, Joe	LS	6-3	245	5	Navy	D5-15	D5-NE-15

Patriots *in the Draft* | Grade: B+

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
2.	**Kyle Dugger**	**S**	**6-2**	**220**	**Lenoir-Rhyne**
2.	Josh Uche	LB	6-3	226	Michigan
3.	Anfernee Jennings	LB	6-3	259	Alabama
3.	Devin Asiasi	TE	6-3	257	UCLA
3.	Dalton Keene	TE	6-4	251	Virginia Tech
5.	Justin Rohrwasser	K	6-3	230	Marshall
6.	Michael Onwenu	G	6-3	350	Michigan
6.	Justin Herron	G/T	6-5	305	Wake Forest
6.	Cassh Maluia	LB	6-0	248	Wyoming
7.	Dustin Woodard	C	6-2	291	Memphis

New England replenished its defensive front seven, built depth on its offensive line, double dipped at tight end and just might have landed the NFL's next big safety out of tiny Division II Lenoir-Rhyne. Second-round pick Kyle Dugger gets the benefit of learning the defense from veterans Devin McCourty and Patrick Chung while also immediately contributing on special teams as the club's punt returner. Josh Uche gives the club a high-motor edge rusher. Anfernee Jennings played on the edge and off the ball for Nick Saban and likely will do the same for Bill Belichick. Tight ends Devin Asiasi and Dalton Keene are an immediate upgrade at a position that was severely lacking in 2019.

Outside the Huddle

SWEET SIXTEEN The Patriots have had at least one undrafted free agent earn a spot on the initial 53-man roster in every season since 2004. Best guesses to extend that string in 2020? Auburn DE Nick Coe, Miami WR/KR Jeff Thomas and Arkansas LB De'Jon Harris.

FREQUENT FLYERS Robert Kraft's team plane will burn some serious fuel this season with two West Coast trips, one of which will include a Sunday-Thursday stay in Los Angeles for games against the Rams and Chargers. In addition, they'll travel to Kansas City and Houston, plus the annual AFC East trip to Miami.

COACHING CLINIC Who's more responsible for the dynasty, Bill Belichick or Tom Brady? It's been asked thousands of times. Consider this: Belichick led the Browns to the playoffs after the 1994 season (where they beat the Patriots) and then guided New England to an 11–5 mark with a quarterback who never started in college (Matt Cassel).

PUNT PRODUCTION Top pick Kyle Dugger returned six punts for touchdowns during his college days at Division II Lenoir-Rhyne. His performance covering tight ends in one-on-one at the Senior Bowl really boosted his stock.

SON SHINES Special teamer Matthew Slater has been named to the Pro Bowl in eight of the last nine seasons. That's one more nod than his father, Hall of Fame offensive tackle Jackie, earned during his career.

FAMILY FEELINGS The Patriots have brothers on the roster (Jason and Devin McCourty) and two sets on the coaching staff (Steve and Brian Belichick and Jerod and Deron Mayo).

SWOOSH SUCCESS Bill Belichick's dog, Nike, stole the show during the virtual draft, often sitting in the coach's chair when camera would zoom to the coach's Nantucket home. "He's fast," the coach said when asked for a scouting report. "Not as fast as the rabbits he's chasing, but he's close."

COLOR COORDINATED The Patriots made their first uniform changes in 20 years, switching to a color rush look, with all navy home kits and all whites on the road.

MIDDLE MANAGER Seventh-round pick Dustin Woodard of Memphis played 13 games at left guard as a sophomore, 14 games at right guard as a junior and 14 games at center as a senior.

RECORD RUN Since Robert Kraft bought the franchise in 1994, his Patriots have won a league-high 324 games (postseason included). The Steelers and Packers are tied for second with 282.

BASKETBALL BASE Right guard Shaq Mason's full name is Shaquille Olajuwon Mason, a nod to two of his mom's favorite NBA superstars.

WHITE WALKER James White's 24 receiving touchdowns are the most by a running back in his first six seasons in NFL history. Minnesota's Chuck Foreman and Philadelphia's Brian Westbrook had 23.

RAPID RECOVERIES Since 1994, New England leads the NFL in turnover margin at plus-225. Kansas City is next best at plus-155.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2015	12	★
2016	14	🏆
2017	13	★
2018	11	🏆
2015	12	★

★ Playoffs 🏆 Won Super Bowl

NUMBERS TO KNOW

66

The Patriots missed a league-low 66 tackles per Sportradar data.

7.6

New England turned the ball over on only 7.6 percent of its offensive possessions, the third-lowest rate in the NFL.

9

New England's defense and special teams created 27 turnovers before the Week 10 bye, and just nine in the seven games afterwards.

Lenoir-Rhyne Athletics

New York
JETS

AFC East Forecast: 3

Will this finally be the year the Jets actually look competent? Head coach Adam Gase's job could depend on it. He has a third-year quarterback, Sam Darnold. And Gase was hired to mold Darnold. If the Jets and especially Darnold don't show progress in 2020, Gase could be a goner.

He started 1–7 last season but managed to finish 7–9. Acting owner Christopher Johnson will (and should) expect Gase to at least challenge for a playoff spot in 2020, particularly with the playoffs expanding by one wild card team in each conference.

The Jets haven't reached the playoffs since 2010. They have six losing seasons since then, including each of the past four years. The Jets, for all their failings, hadn't had four straight losing seasons since 1962-65. Their current, nine-season playoff drought is the second-longest in team history, behind an 11-season drought from 1970-80.

Time for all that to change — or there might be more changes up top.

OFFENSE The biggest question for this offense: Does Darnold have enough protection and playmakers? After losing wide receiver Robby Anderson in free agency to the Panthers, the Jets need newcomer Breshad Perriman to replicate the deep-threat presence that Anderson provided. Second-round draft pick Denzel Mims also has big-play potential, and he could challenge Perriman for the No. 2 receiver job behind Jamison Crowder. Beyond that trio, the Jets lack proven options at receiver. So Darnold will need Crowder, Perriman and Mims to stay healthy. In May, wide receiver Quincy Enunwa was placed on the PUP list for the season after doctors determined his neck had not healed from the injury he suffered in 2019. His football future is in question.

This will be $27 million running back Le'Veon Bell's final season with the Jets if his production doesn't improve. No more excuses about an awful offensive line. (That was a legit excuse last year.) The Jets upgraded the interior of their line in free agency — center Connor McGovern, offensive guard Greg Van Roten — so they ought to be able to get a better push for Bell.

The Jets took offensive tackle Mekhi Becton 11th overall in this year's draft. And he's going to start immediately, either on the left side (where he would battle newcomer George Fant) or on the right (replacing second-year pro Chuma Edoga). Yes, Becton is a bit of a project, but his massive frame (6'7", 364 pounds) alone gives him star potential.

No, Darnold doesn't have a perfect playmaker or line situation. So he also needs to do his part. The jury is still out on whether he's a legit franchise quarterback. His stats through 26 starts: 36 touchdowns, 28 interceptions and an 81.1 rating. This needs to be a springboard season for him, a year in which he consistently makes better decisions, especially under duress. The Jets signed Joe Flacco to be Darnold's backup. This was an important move for Gase and Co., because Darnold missed three games in each of his first two seasons — and the Jets went 0–6 in those games, compared to 11–15 when he started. So they needed a backup they could count on. And presuming Flacco can recover from offseason neck surgery, he will fill that role.

Gase now has more to work with. That much is clear. He came to the Jets with a reputation for being an offensive guru. But that didn't exactly show up last season, when the Jets finished 31st in Football Outsiders' offensive DVOA ratings.

Roster-building work clearly remains for GM Joe Douglas. Former GM Mike Maccagnan

THE ORGANIZATION

Chairman/CEO: Christopher Johnson
President: Hymie Elhai
General Manager: Joe Douglas
Senior Director, Football Administration: Dave Socie
Stadium: MetLife Stadium (82,500)
Surface: Artificial Turf
Website: www.newyorkjets.com
Tickets: 800-469-JETS (5387)
Training Camp: Atlantic Health Jets Training Center (Florham Park, N.J.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Adam Gase
Record With Team: 7-9
Career Record: 30-34
Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks: Dowell Loggains
Defensive Coordinator: Gregg Williams
Special Teams Coordinator: Brant Boyer
Running Backs: Jim Bob Cooter
Assistant Head Coach/Wide Receivers: Shawn Jefferson
Tight Ends: John Dunn
Offensive Line: Frank Pollack
Defensive Line: Andre Carter
Assistant Head Coach/Inside Linebackers: Frank Bush
Senior Defensive Assistant/Outside Linebackers: Joe Vitt
Passing Game Coordinator/Defensive Backs: Dennard Wilson

2020 SCHEDULE

2019 NFL RANKINGS

Date	Opponent	Time	2019 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 13	at Buffalo	1:00	10-6	330.2 (24)	298.3 (3)	19.6 (23)	16.2 (2)
Sept. 20	San Francisco	1:00	13-3	381.1 (4)	281.8 (2)	29.9 (2)	19.4 (8)
Sept. 27	at Indianapolis	4:05	7-9	327.4 (25)	346.8 (16)	22.6 (t16)	23.3 (18)
Oct. 1	Denver (Thu.)	8:20	7-9	298.6 (28)	337.0 (12)	17.6 (28)	19.8 (10)
Oct. 11	Arizona	1:00	5-10-1	341.7 (21)	402.0 (32)	22.6 (t16)	27.6 (28)
Oct. 18	at L.A. Chargers	4:05	5-11	367.4 (10)	313.1 (6)	21.1 (21)	21.6 (14)
Oct. 25	Buffalo	1:00	10-6	330.2 (24)	298.3 (3)	19.6 (23)	16.2 (2)
Nov. 1	at Kansas City	1:00	12-4	379.2 (6)	349.6 (17)	28.2 (5)	19.2 (7)
Nov. 9	New England (Mon.)	8:15	12-4	354.0 (15)	275.9 (1)	26.2 (7)	14.1 (1)
Nov. 15	at Miami	4:05	5-11	310.0 (27)	397.8 (30)	19.1 (25)	30.9 (32)
BYE							
Nov. 29	Miami	1:00	5-11	310.0 (27)	397.8 (30)	19.1 (25)	30.9 (32)
Dec. 6	Las Vegas	1:00	7-9	363.7 (11)	354.8 (19)	19.6 (24)	26.2 (24)
Dec. 13	at Seattle	4:05	11-5	374.4 (8)	381.6 (26)	25.3 (9)	24.9 (22)
Dec.19/20	at L.A. Rams	TBD	9-7	374.9 (7)	339.6 (13)	24.6 (11)	22.8 (17)
Dec.26/27	Cleveland	TBD	6-10	340.9 (22)	361.6 (22)	20.9 (22)	24.6 (20)
Jan. 3	at New England	1:00	12-4	354.0 (15)	275.9 (1)	26.2 (7)	14.1 (1)

Sam Darnold

QUARTERBACK

2019 RESULTS (7-9)

Sept.	8	Buffalo	L	16-17
Sept.	16	Cleveland	L	3-23
Sept.	22	at New England	L	14-30
Oct.	6	at Philadelphia	L	6-31
Oct.	13	Dallas	W	24-22
Oct.	21	New England	L	0-33
Oct.	27	at Jacksonville	L	15-29
Nov.	3	at Miami	L	18-26
Nov.	10	N.Y. Giants	W	34-27
Nov.	17	at Washington	W	34-17
Nov.	24	Oakland	W	34-3
Dec.	1	at Cincinnati	L	6-22
Dec.	8	Miami	W	22-21
Dec.	12	at Baltimore	L	21-42
Dec.	22	Pittsburgh	W	16-10
Dec.	29	at Buffalo	W	13-6

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Sam Darnold	441	273	3,024	19	13
Luke Falk	73	47	416	0	3

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Le'Veon Bell	245	789	3.2	3
Bilal Powell	59	229	3.9	0
Ty Montgomery	32	103	3.2	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Jamison Crowder	78	833	10.7	6
Robby Anderson	52	779	15.0	5
Le'Veon Bell	66	461	7.0	1
Demaryius Thomas	36	433	12.0	1
Ryan Griffin	34	320	9.4	5

KICKING: Sam Ficken, 19-27 FGs, 23-26 PAT, 80 points

TACKLES: James Burgess, 80; two tied with 75

SACKS: Jordan Jenkins, 8.0; Jamal Adams, 6.5

INTERCEPTIONS: Neville Hewitt, 2; 10 tied with 1

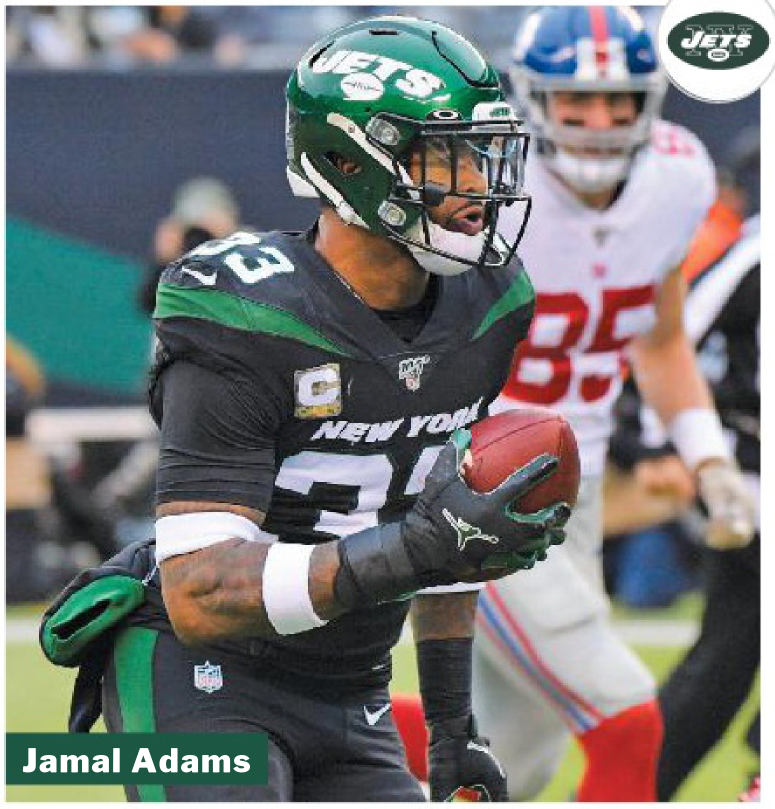
2019 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	273.0	32	16
Rushing	78.6	31	15
Passing	194.4	29	14
Scoring	17.2	31	16
Third Down %	30.7	31	16
Punt Returns	11.4	2	2
Kick Returns	21.8	T20	T11

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	323.1	7	6
Rushing	86.9	2	1
Passing	236.2	17	10
Scoring	22.4	16	9
Interceptions	12	T17	T10
Sacks	35	23	11
Turnover Differential	-4	23	12

Darnold: Bruce Schwartzman; Adams: AP Photo/Bill Kostroun

didn't leave him with much, especially on offense. But there's no reason the Jets' offense should be as terrible as it was last season.


Jamal Adams

DEFENSE If C.J. Mosley can stay healthy in 2020, he should be a huge difference-maker for Gregg Williams' group at middle linebacker. Mosley was limited to two games in 2019 by a groin injury.

Yet Williams still managed to earn his paycheck in a big way, as the Jets finished 10th in defensive DVOA. So Jets fans should have high hopes for what Williams can do in 2020 with a more complete group of players.

Edge rusher remains an issue, as it has been since the Jets traded John Abraham after the 2005 season. Outside linebacker Jordan Jenkins returns on a one-year contract, but he's probably better as an edge-setting run stopper than he is as a pass rusher. It appears the same could be true of third-round pick Jabari Zuniga, presuming he transitions to 3-4 outside linebacker.

Last year's first-round pick, defensive lineman Quinnen Williams, has to be more disruptive. Last season, he ranked 55th among interior defensive linemen in Pro Football Focus' pass rushing ratings. So much for him helping the Jets get push up the middle.

Bottom line: Mosley is going to have to be a hero for this front seven, a guy who can do a lot in coverage, against the run and as a pass rusher.

Strong safety Jamal Adams is the Jets' best player on either side of the ball, a first-team All-Pro selection last year. But the rest of the secondary looks murky.

Cornerback Pierre Desir arrives from the Colts, but his production dipped last season, and he was cut. He'll have to show he can be a true No. 1 corner, especially in press man-to-man coverage, which Williams likes to use. The Colts played a lot of zone coverage.

Maybe the biggest question for this defense: Who is the other outside corner? During the draft, the Jets traded with the Colts for former second-round corner Quincy Wilson — another guy who had a down 2019 season in Indianapolis. He'll have a good shot to land the starting job.

Free safety Marcus Maye is the most quietly intriguing player on this defense as he enters a contract year. He was healthy and played a full season in 2019. If he repeats his production, he could be on his way to big money. Though Maye was overshadowed by Adams, he still ranked 14th among safeties, per PFF, including 15th against the run and 14th in coverage.

The Jets will need Maye to be a linchpin of their pass defense, with so many questions at cornerback, even with Brian Poole returning as the slot corner.

SPECIALISTS The Jets added an intriguing punter in Round 6 — Texas A&M's Braden Mann, the 2018 Ray Guy Award winner as college football's best punter. He replaces Lachlan Edwards, whom the Jets let walk in free agency. Edwards was 15th in the NFL in yards per punt last season.

Sam Ficken will have to fight for the kicking job after he made 19-of-27 field goals last season and missed three extra points. The Jets' offense doesn't have that kind of margin for error. Ficken ranked 30th in the NFL last year in field-goal percentage (70.4).

The return jobs are also up for grabs, even though punt returner Braxton Berrios ranked second in the league last season in yards per return (11.4). Vyncint Smith will probably be the initial leader for the kickoff return job, but that can change quickly.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Jets will be better. But how much better? And with their tough schedule, will it translate to more wins? This feels like an 8–8 or 9–7 team. The roster just isn't completely there yet. And a lot still depends on Darnold's health and progress. The Jets absolutely need both. Yes, the AFC East has opened up with Tom Brady's departure. But the Bills are improving, too, with promising young quarterback Josh Allen.

And remember that the Jets have to play the 49ers, Seahawks, Rams, Colts and Chiefs in 2020. They have the NFL's second-toughest schedule. So there's a chance the Jets will have to go through another coaching search in 2021.

2020 VETERAN JETS ROSTER

	QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
14	Darnold, Sam	QB	6-3	225	2	USC	D1-18	D1-NYJ-18
3	Fales, David	QB	6-1	210	5	San Jose State	FA-19	D6-Chi-14
	Flacco, Joe	QB	6-6	245	12	Delaware	FA-20	D1-Bal-08
5	White, Mike	QB	6-5	218	2	Western Kentucky	FA-19	D5-Dal-18

	RUNNING BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
36	Adams, Josh	RB	6-2	225	2	Notre Dame	FA-19	FA-Phi-18
26	Bell, Le'Veon	RB	6-1	225	6	Michigan State	FA-Pit-19	D2-Pit-13
25	Cannon, Trenton	RB	5-11	185	2	Virginia State	D6c-18	D6c-NYJ-18
38	Dixon, Kenneth	RB	5-10	228	4	Louisiana Tech	FA-19	D4-Bal-16
	Gore, Frank	RB	5-9	212	15	Miami	FA-Buf-20	D3-SF-05
30	Moore, Jalin	RB	5-10	212	1	Appalachian State	FA-19	FA-NYJ-19

	RECEIVERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
15	Bellamy, Josh	WR	6-0	208	5	Louisville	FA-Chi-19	FA-KC-12
10	Berrios, Braxton	WR	5-9	190	2	Miami	W-NE-19	D6b-NE-18
87	Brown, Daniel	TE	6-5	247	5	James Madison	FA-Chi-19	FA-Bal-15
	Chesson, Jehu	WR	6-2	204	2	Michigan	FA-20	D4-KC-17
82	Crowder, Jamison	WR	5-9	177	5	Duke	FA-Was-19	D4a-Was-15
	Doctson, Josh	WR	6-2	205	4	TCU	FA-20	D1-Was-16
81	Enunwa, Quincy	WR	6-2	225	5	Nebraska	D6b-14	D6b-NYJ-14
84	Griffin, Ryan	TE	6-6	255	7	Connecticut	FA-19	D6-Hou-13
86	Hatcher, Keon	WR	6-1	212	2	Arkansas	FA-19	FA-Oak-17
89	Herndon, Chris	TE	6-4	253	2	Miami	D4-18	D4-NYJ-18
83	Malone, Josh	WR	6-3	205	3	Tennessee	FA-19	D4-Cin-17
	Perriman, Breshad	WR	6-2	215	5	UCF	FA-TB-20	D1-Bal-15
16	Smith, Jeff	WR	6-1	195	1	Boston College	FA-19	FA-NYJ-19
17	Smith, Vyncint	WR	6-3	202	2	Limestone	FA-19	FA-Hou-18
43	Travis, Ross	TE	6-6	248	4	Penn State	W-Ind-19	FA-KC-15
85	Wesco, Trevon	TE	6-3	267	1	West Virginia	D4-19	D4-NYJ-19

	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
	Andrews, Josh	C	6-2	298	4	Oregon State	FA-Ind-20	FA-Phi-14
70	Braden, Ben	OL	6-6	329	2	Michigan	FA-19	FA-NYJ-17
75	Edoga, Chuma	T	6-3	308	1	USC	D3b-19	D3b-NYJ-19
	Fant, George	T	6-5	322	4	Western Kentucky	FA-Sea-20	FA-Sea-16
78	Harrison, Jonotthan	OL	6-4	300	6	Florida	FA-17	FA-Ind-14
65	Kaufusi, Corbin	OL	6-9	275	1	BYU	FA-19	FA-NO-19
63	Koloamatangi, Leo	OL	6-4	310	1	Hawaii	FA-19	FA-Det-17
71	Lewis, Alex	OL	6-6	305	4	Nebraska	T-Bal-19	D4c-Bal-16
64	Lundblade, Brad	OL	6-3	305	1	Oklahoma State	FA-19	FA-Sea-18
69	McDermott, Conor	OL	6-8	310	3	UCLA	W-Buf-19	D6-NE-17
	McGovern, Connor	C	6-4	306	4	Missouri	FA-Den-20	D5-Den-16
61	Murray, Jimmy	OL	6-5	305	2	Holy Cross	FA-19	FA-KC-18
	Van Roten, Greg	G	6-3	305	5	Pennsylvania	FA-Car-20	D2-Bal-11
67	Winters, Brian	G	6-4	320	7	Kent State	D3-13	D3-NYJ-13

	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
96	Anderson, Henry	DL	6-6	301	5	Stanford	T-Ind-18	D3-Ind-15
94	Fatukasi, Folorunso	DL	6-4	318	2	Connecticut	D6b-18	D6b-NYJ-18
56	Franklin-Myers, John	DL	6-4	288	2	Stephen F. Austin	W-LAR-19	D4b-LAR-18
91	Kaufusi, Bronson	DL	6-6	275	3	BYU	FA-18	D3-Bal-16
65	Kaufusi, Corbin	DL	6-9	275	1	BYU	FA-19	FA-NO-19
99	McLendon, Steve	DL	6-3	310	10	Troy	FA-Pit-16	FA-Pit-09
98	Phillips, Kyle	DL	6-4	277	1	Tennessee	FA-19	FA-NYJ-19
97	Shepherd, Nathan	DL	6-4	315	2	Fort Hays State	D3-18	D3-NYJ-18
95	Williams, Quinnen	DL	6-3	303	1	Alabama	D1-19	D1-NYJ-19
60	Willis, Jordan	DL	6-4	270	3	Kansas State	W-Cin-19	D3-Cin-17

	LINEBACKERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
93	Basham, Tarell	LB	6-4	266	3	Ohio	W-Ind-18	D3-Ind-17
49	Bello, B.J.	LB	6-3	229	2	Illinois State	FA-19	FA-Cle-17
58	Burgess, James	LB	6-0	230	3	Louisville	W-Mia-19	FA-Mia-16
53	Cashman, Blake	LB	6-1	237	1	Minnesota	D5-19	D5-NYJ-19
52	Gooden, Ahmad	LB	6-4	245	1	Samford	FA-19	FA-Den-19
46	Hewitt, Neville	LB	6-2	234	5	Marshall	FA-18	FA-Mia-15
48	Jenkins, Jordan	LB	6-3	259	4	Georgia	D3-16	D3-NYJ-16
44	Langi, Harvey	LB	6-2	250	2	BYU	FA-18	FA-NE-17
50	Luvu, Frankie	LB	6-3	236	2	Washington State	FA-18	FA-NYJ-18
57	Mosley, C.J.	LB	6-2	250	6	Alabama	FA-Bal-19	D1-Bal-14
	Onwuasor, Patrick	LB	6-0	227	4	Portland State	FA-Bal-20	FA-Bal-16
43	Ray, Wyatt	LB	6-3	257	1	Boston College	FA-19	FA-Cle-19
54	Williamson, Avery	LB	6-1	246	6	Kentucky	FA-Ten-18	D5-Ten-14

	DEFENSIVE BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
33	Adams, Jamal	S	6-1	213	3	LSU	D1-17	D1-NYJ-17
31	Austin, Bless	CB	6-1	198	1	Rutgers	D6-19	D6-NYJ-19
35	Brown, Kyron	CB	6-1	195	1	Akron	FA-19	FA-NYJ-19
	Cioffi, Anthony	CB/S	6-0	205	1	Rutgers	FA-20	FA-LV-17
	Desir, Pierre	CB	6-1	192	6	Lindenwood	FA-Ind-20	D4-Cle-14
41	Farley, Matthias	S	5-11	204	4	Notre Dame	FA-19	FA-Ari-16
21	Hairston, Nate	CB	6-0	185	3	Temple	T-Ind-19	D5a-Ind-17
39	Jackson, Bennett	S	6-0	192	2	Notre Dame	W-Bal-19	D6-NYG-14
23	Maulet, Arthur	CB	5-10	190	3	Memphis	FA-19	FA-NO-17
20	Maye, Marcus	S	6-0	207	3	Florida	D2-17	D2-NYJ-17
34	Poole, Brian	CB	5-10	213	4	Florida	FA-Atl-19	FA-Atl-16
	Wilson, Quincy	CB	6-2	193	3	Florida	T-Ind-20	D2-Ind-17

	SPECIALISTS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
	Berryman, Ian	P	6-0	200	1	Western Carolina	FA-19	FA-Pit-19
9	Ficken, Sam	K	6-1	192	1	Penn State	FA-19	FA-Jac-16
42	Hennessy, Thomas	LS	6-2	246	3	Duke	T-Ind-17	FA-Ind-17
	Maher, Brett	K	6-0	190	2	Nebraska	FA-19	FA-NYJ-13

Scouting the Jets

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP NEW YORK "The Jets faced adversity early on with a nightmare start, injuries to star players and constant displeasure from fans who wanted the team to fire head coach and play-caller Adam Gase, but they showed resiliency and finished the season strong. … No doubt about the talent QB Sam Darnold possesses, but he must limit turnovers and play with consistency as he heads into Year Three. RB Le'Veon Bell was still effective, quietly amassing over 1,000 all-purpose yards. Slot WR Jamison Crowder led the team with 78 receptions, and with the additions of WRs Breshad Perriman and Denzel Mims, they let WR Robby Anderson depart in free agency. While TE Chris Herndon basically rehabbed all last season, Ryan Griffin stepped up as a reliable veteran and earned a contract extension. … They did a great job to revamp one of the worst OLs, signing athletic OT George Fant and versatile C Connor McGovern and drafting OT Mekhi Becton in the first round. … Defensively, they play with a fast, aggressive and attacking tempo led by motivating defensive coordinator Gregg Williams and All-Pro safety Jamal Adams. Top-three ILB C.J. Mosley made an immediate impact before being slowed down by injuries. … They have one of the worst starting CB units, but they found a bright spot with nickel Brian Poole and the additions of CBs Pierre Desir and Bryce Hall. … They need more consistency on special teams with a murky kicking situation, but they added a weapon with punter Braden Mann. … GM Joe Douglas and Gase will add more talent to help Darnold, but it's on him to take the next step and prove if he's really the franchise QB."

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
CB	Pierre Desir	Indianapolis
OT	George Fant	Seattle
C	Connor McGovern	Denver
WR	Breshad Perriman	Tampa Bay
OG	Greg Van Roten	Carolina
CB	Quincy Wilson	Indianapolis

KEY LOSSES -

POS.	PLAYER	2020 TEAM
WR	Robby Anderson	Carolina
OLB	Brandon Copeland	New England
P	Lachlan Edwards	Free Agent
OT	Brent Qvale	Houston
OG	Brandon Shell	Seattle

Offseason Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR		Breshad Perriman		Josh Doctson
WR		Denzel Mims (R)	17	Vyncint Smith
WR	82	Jamison Crowder	10	Braxton Berrios
LT		George Fant		Mekhi Becton (R)
LG		Greg Van Roten	71	Alex Lewis
C		Connor McGovern	78	Jonotthan Harrison
RG	67	Brian Winters	70	Ben Braden
RT		Mekhi Becton (R)	75	Chuma Edoga
TE	89	Chris Herndon	84	Ryan Griffin
QB	14	Sam Darnold		Joe Flacco
RB	26	Le'Veon Bell		La'Mical Perine (R)

DEFENSE

DE	95	Quinnen Williams	98	Kyle Phillips
NT	99	Steve McLendon	94	Folorunso Fatukasi
DE	96	Henry Anderson	97	Nathan Shepherd
OLB	44	Harvey Langi		Jabari Zuniga (R)
ILB	57	C.J. Mosley	58	James Burgess
ILB	54	Avery Williamson	53	Blake Cashman
OLB	48	Jordan Jenkins	50	Frankie Luvu
CB		Pierre Desir		Bryce Hall (R)
CB		Quincy Wilson	34	Brian Poole
SS	33	Jamal Adams	41	Matthias Farley
FS	20	Marcus Maye		Ashtyn Davis (R)

SPECIALISTS

K	9	Sam Ficken	KR	17	Vyncint Smith
P		Braden Mann (R)	PR	10	Braxton Berrios

Harrison McClary

Jets *in the Draft* | Grade: B+

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	**Mekhi Becton**	**OT**	**6-7**	**364**	**Louisville**
2.	Denzel Mims	WR	6-3	207	Baylor
3.	Ashtyn Davis	S	6-1	202	California
3.	Jabari Zuniga	DE	6-3	264	Florida
4.	La'Mical Perine	RB	5-11	216	Florida
4.	James Morgan	QB	6-4	229	Florida International
4.	Cameron Clark	OT	6-4	308	Charlotte
5.	Bryce Hall	CB	6-1	202	Virginia
6.	Braden Mann	P	5-11	198	Texas A&M

Jets general manager Joe Douglas needed to get immediate protection and playmaker help for third-year quarterback Sam Darnold. And he did exactly that with immediate starters Mekhi Becton and Denzel Mims. Becton could start at right or left tackle. Mims might be the No. 2 receiver. It's a bit curious given the Jets' needs that Douglas waited until Round 5 to pick a cornerback. But Bryce Hall has second-round talent — he fell due to an ankle injury — and could contend for the starting job opposite Pierre Desir in 2020. Could La'Mical Perine replace Le'Veon Bell? Not this year, but perhaps in 2021, if Bell struggles again in 2020 and is cut. Braden Mann will immediately replace Lachlan Edwards as the Jets' punter. They let Edwards leave in free agency.

Outside the Huddle

GENEROUS JOE With New Jersey on lockdown this spring during the coronavirus pandemic, Jets general manager Joe Douglas regularly visited a restaurant near his house to get takeout food for his family. And he regularly left a $100 tip on his $100 order. Douglas never publicized this, but the news got out when the girlfriend of a server posted about it online.

BREAKOUT STRETCH? Breshad Perriman hasn't done much in his career, except for the end of last season in Tampa Bay, when Mike Evans and Chris Godwin were hurt. That stretch was a major statistical outlier for Perriman, a former first-round pick. During the final five games last year, Perriman had 25 catches for 506 yards and five touchdowns. In his other 46 career games, Perriman averaged 1.5 catches per game for a total of 1,055 yards (22.9 yards per game).

HEAVY HITTER Mekhi Becton is the Jets' potential left tackle of the future, as long as he keeps his weight in check. Near the end of the 2018 season at Louisville, he hit 389 pounds. But he worked hard that offseason with the school's strength staff and a nutritionist and trimmed down to the mid-360s. At the NFL Scouting Combine, he weighed 364 pounds. Yes, that's heavy, but it's a good playing weight for him, since he's 6'7". A mammoth player.

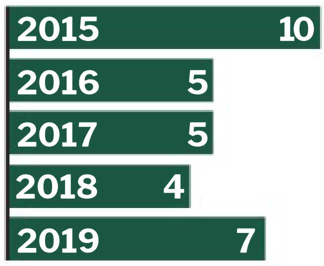
QB PALS Sam Darnold might be on-field rivals with Bills quarterback Josh Allen, but they're good buddies off the field. In the offseason, they both train with personal quarterback coach Jordan Palmer, the younger brother of former NFL quarterback Carson Palmer. Darnold is 2–1 against Allen in his career. (They both missed the same game in 2018.) Darnold was drafted third overall in 2018, Allen seventh overall.

FAMILIAR NAME Maybe the last name of new Jets running back La'Mical Perine rings a bell. That's because he is the cousin of running back Samaje Perine, who played for Washington and the Bengals before joining the Dolphins late in 2019. He recently re-signed with Cincinnati. Samaje has 651 career rushing yards, but 603 of those came in Washington during his rookie year, 2017, after he was a fourth-round pick (114th). So was La'Mical, who went six spots later.

RECORD LEG New Jets punter Braden Mann won the Ray Guy Award in 2018 as college football's best punter while starring at Texas A&M. Not only that, but Mann also set the NCAA record for punts of 60-plus yards that season. He averaged 50.98 yards per punt, breaking an NCAA record (50.28) that had stood since 1997. But last season, Mann's average dipped to 47.1 yards.

REBOUND (AND CONTRACT) YEAR Inside linebacker Avery Williamson, set to play next to C.J. Mosley, missed the 2019 season with a torn ACL suffered during a preseason game. It seemed possible the Jets might cut Williamson this offseason, but they opted to retain him for the final year of his contract. Mosley and Williamson could form a nice tandem in 2020, if both stay healthy. Williamson will have an $8.5 million salary cap figure this season. The Jets would've freed up $6.5 million by cutting him. Can he return to full health and earn another contract?

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



NUMBERS TO KNOW

3.3

The Jets held opposing rushers to a league-low 3.3 yards per carry.

23.0

A league-low 23.0 percent of Jets possessions ended in a score. They were 5.3 percentage points behind the second-worst Giants.

170

In their three games without Sam Darnold, the Jets didn't crack 170 passing yards once. In his 13 games, Darnold averaged 232.6 passing yards per game.

Baltimore RAVENS

AFC North Forecast: 1

THE ORGANIZATION

Owner: Stephen J. Bisciotti
President: Richard W. Cass
Executive VP/General Manager: Eric DeCosta
Senior VP of Football Administration: Pat Moriarty
Stadium: M&T Bank Stadium (71,008)
Surface: Grass
Website: www.baltimoreravens.com
Tickets: 410-261-RAVE (7283)
Training Camp: Under Armour Performance Center (Owings Mills, Md.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: John Harbaugh
Record With Team: 118-74
Career Record: 118-74
Offensive Coordinator: Greg Roman
Defensive Coordinator: Don Martindale
Special Teams Coordinator: Chris Horton
Quarterbacks: James Urban
Running Backs: Matt Weiss
Assistant Head Coach/Passing Coordinator/Wide Receivers: David Culley
Tight Ends: Bobby Engram
Offensive Line: Joe D'Alessandris
Defensive Line: Joe Cullen
Linebackers: Mike Macdonald
Outside Linebackers: Drew Wilkins
Defensive Backs: Jesse Minter
Special Teams: Randy Brown

The Ravens boast the league's reigning Most Valuable Player in quarterback Lamar Jackson and return virtually everyone on offense from a team that went 14–2, but the number hounding Jackson like an aggressive edge rusher is zero, as in zero career playoff wins. Jackson is 19–3 as a regular-season starter but 0–2 in the playoffs. "I need to win a playoff game before anything because I'm tired of that already," Jackson says. "Once I get tired of something, I have to make it happen."

The Ravens have the personnel to make that happen. Their only notable loss on offense is a big one: perennial Pro Bowl guard Marshal Yanda, who retired after 13 seasons. Defensively, the Ravens beefed up the defensive line, adding All-Pro Calais Campbell and Derek Wolfe, and they rebuilt the inside linebacker group in front of a Pro Bowl secondary. In crunch time, it doesn't hurt to have the most accurate kicker in NFL history.

OFFENSE The Ravens and Jackson operate a system that is both "revolutionary" — head coach John Harbaugh's word — and old-school, with an innovative, dual-threat quarterback and a ground-and-pound approach that hearkens back to the 1970s and flies in the face of the pass-happy trends of today's NFL.

Led by Jackson and running back Mark Ingram II — both 1,000-yard rushers last year — their ball-control offense is suffocating when they have the lead. They had five scoring drives of at least nine minutes last year; no other team had more than one.

Along with his off-the-charts athleticism, Jackson's deception at the mesh point in the read option is superb. Recently retired Pro Bowl safety Eric Weddle, an astute student of the game, says that when his Rams played the Ravens last year, he often had no idea who had the ball. When edge defenders cheat outside to contain Jackson, room up the middle opens for Ingram or bulldozing Gus Edwards. Rookie J.K. Dobbins adds another element to an attack that set the NFL single-season record last year with 3,296 rushing yards.

If an outside linebacker overpursues inside, Jackson can keep and beat him to the edge, which he did often last season en route to 176 carries for 1,206 yards, both NFL single-season records for a quarterback. The Ravens don't want to subject Jackson to unnecessary hits, but in the open field, he is a sight to behold. Case in point: his 47-yard, spin-move touchdown run at Cincinnati, which left four Bengals practically crashing into one another. "They'll be watching that run for decades and decades," Harbaugh says.

Jackson became the first player in NFL history with 1,000 rushing yards and 3,000 passing yards in the same season. Defiantly answering critics who have questioned his mechanics, Jackson delivered an NFL-best 36 TD passes against just six interceptions in 2019 despite having no wide receiver with more than 600 receiving yards.

Tight end Mark Andrews has been Jackson's favorite target since the two broke into the league together, and second-year receiver Marquise Brown is expected to be fully recovered from a foot injury that bothered him his entire rookie season. The Ravens added sure-handed slot receiver Devin Duvernay in the draft, but they don't have many of the big, physical receivers that so many teams covet. Miles Boykin (6'4") best fits that bill, but he was limited to 13 catches as a rookie. Then again, offensive coordinator Greg Roman has shown he won't hesitate to do things differently, and receivers on this team had better be ready to block.

Up front, the Ravens face a massive hole with the retirement of Yanda, an eight-time Pro Bowl pick. Center Matt Skura is recov-

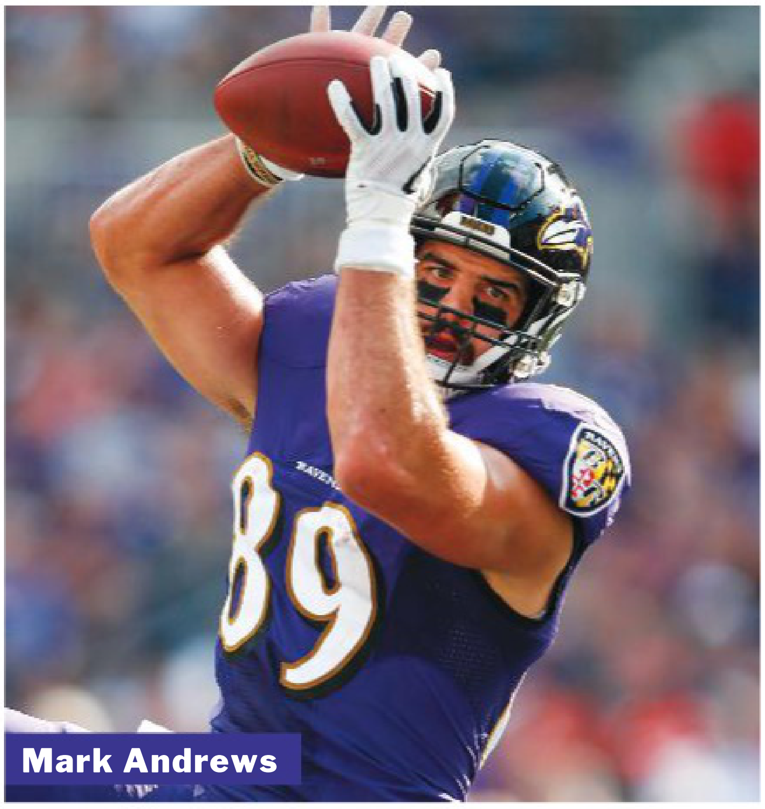
2020 SCHEDULE			2019 NFL RANKINGS				
Date	Opponent	Time	2019 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 13	Cleveland	1:00	6-10	340.9 (22)	361.6 (22)	20.9 (22)	24.6 (20)
Sept. 20	at Houston	4:25	10-6	362.0 (13)	388.3 (28)	23.6 (14)	24.1 (19)
Sept. 28	Kansas City (Mon.)	8:15	12-4	379.2 (6)	349.6 (17)	28.2 (5)	19.2 (7)
Oct. 4	at Washington	1:00	3-13	274.7 (31)	385.1 (27)	16.6 (32)	27.2 (27)
Oct. 11	Cincinnati	1:00	2-14	323.1 (26)	393.7 (29)	17.4 (30)	26.2 (25)
Oct. 18	at Philadelphia	1:00	9-7	360.8 (14)	331.7 (10)	24.1 (12)	22.1 (15)
Oct. 25	Pittsburgh	1:00	8-8	276.8 (30)	304.1 (5)	18.1 (27)	18.9 (t5)
BYE							
Nov. 8	at Indianapolis	1:00	7-9	327.4 (25)	346.8 (16)	22.6 (t16)	23.3 (18)
Nov. 15	at New England	8:20	12-4	354.0 (15)	275.9 (1)	26.2 (7)	14.1 (1)
Nov. 22	Tennessee	1:00	9-7	362.8 (12)	359.5 (21)	25.1 (10)	20.7 (12)
Nov. 26	at Pittsburgh (Thu.)	8:20	8-8	276.8 (30)	304.1 (5)	18.1 (27)	18.9 (t5)
Dec. 3	Dallas (Thu.)	8:20	8-8	431.5 (1)	327.0 (9)	27.1 (6)	20.1 (11)
Dec. 14	at Cleveland (Mon.)	8:15	6-10	340.9 (22)	361.6 (22)	20.9 (22)	24.6 (20)
Dec. 20	Jacksonville	1:00	6-10	341.8 (20)	375.4 (24)	18.8 (26)	24.8 (21)
Dec. 27	N.Y. Giants	1:00	4-12	338.5 (23)	377.3 (25)	21.3 (t18)	28.2 (30)
Jan. 3	at Cincinnati	1:00	2-14	323.1 (26)	393.7 (29)	17.4 (30)	26.2 (25)

W.E. Smith

Lamar Jackson

QUARTERBACK

ering from a major knee injury sustained in November, leaving the interior of the line unsettled. That's no small issue for a team that wants to run the ball down your throat. The Ravens signed former first-round pick D.J. Fluker after his release from the Seahawks, and he becomes the front-runner to replace Yanda. Skura hopes to be ready for the season opener. Ronnie Stanley, who figures to cash in after this, a contract year, and Orlando Brown Jr. impressively bookend the line at left and right tackle, respectively.


Mark Andrews

W.E. Smith

DEFENSE The Ravens defense finished No. 4 overall, but they were physically beaten up in their three losses. They allowed more than 500 yards of offense in back-to-back losses to Kansas City and Cleveland — a franchise first — and then Derrick Henry and the Tennessee Titans ran them over in a Divisional Round stunner.

It's no coincidence, then, that the Ravens emphasized the front seven this offseason. They traded for Campbell, a five-time Pro Bowl defensive end, hoping he still has plenty left at 34. They signed Wolfe and rebuilt their inside linebacker group, drafting LSU's Patrick Queen in the first round and Ohio State's Malik Harrison in the third. The Ravens like Queen's coverage skills, and his blitzing ability will be a good match for defensive coordinator Don "Wink" Martindale, whose defense blitzed more than any other team last season. Run-stuffing Brandon Williams still anchors the middle of the 3-4 scheme.

If Yanda's replacement is Question No. 1 for this Ravens team, the edge rush is Question 1A. The Ravens ranked 21st in the league with 37 sacks last year and added no edge rushers in their 10-member draft class. "In most cases, you're always going to have a hole that kind of stays open," general manager Eric DeCosta said after the draft. "But we'll continue to try and fill those holes."

Matthew Judon received the franchise tag after recording a team-best 9.5 sacks last year, but no one else had more than five. The Ravens figure to add a veteran pass rusher, but they need more from Tyus Bowser (five sacks last year) and second-year edge Jaylon Ferguson (2.5). They also hope to be more disruptive in the interior with the addition of Campbell (88 career sacks) and Wolfe (career-best seven sacks in 2019 with Denver).

The Ravens have invested heavily in their secondary, and they have a trio of Pro Bowl picks to show for it in cornerback Marcus Peters, cornerback Marlon Humphrey and safety Earl Thomas III. The Ravens re-signed cornerback Jimmy Smith this past spring; at 32, he's on the back side of his career but still can contribute when healthy. Slot cornerback Tavon Young returns after missing all of last season with a neck injury, and hybrid Chuck Clark is an emerging star. Clark received a contract extension in the offseason and floats between safety and dime linebacker while directing the defense with the headset helmet.

SPECIALISTS The "Wolfpack" — the group that includes kicker Justin Tucker, punter/holder Sam Koch and long-snapper Morgan Cox — collectively has seven Pro Bowl appearances (three for Tucker, three for Cox, one for Koch) and has operated together since Tucker joined the team as an undrafted rookie in 2012. Tucker has become the most accurate kicker in NFL history, with a success rate of 90.8 percent (265-for-292). The Ravens ranked 30th in the league in kick returns with an average of 18.3 yards per return, and although De'Anthony Thomas is back on a one-year deal, he'll have competition. Rookie wide receiver James Proche is a strong candidate to win the punt return job.

FINAL ANALYSIS With an MVP quarterback, a 1,000-yard running back, a rebuilt front seven and a Pro Bowl secondary, there's justified optimism that the Ravens will again be the class of the AFC North. Yet there are concerns. They need to capably replace Yanda, they want more playmaking from their receivers and they need more havoc in the pass rush, which would benefit the outstanding secondary. DeCosta likes the roster he has constructed. Now they need to take the next step. They have been to the playoffs in back-to-back years but have just one playoff win since their Super Bowl XLVII title after the 2012 season. Ultimately, success this season will hinge on adding to that total.

2019 RESULTS (14-2)

Sept.	8	at Miami	W	59-10
Sept.	15	Arizona	W	23-7
Sept.	22	at Kansas City	L	28-33
Sept.	29	Cleveland	L	25-40
Oct.	6	at Pittsburgh (ot)	W	26-23
Oct.	13	Cincinnati	W	23-17
Oct.	20	at Seattle	W	30-16
Nov.	3	New England	W	37-20
Nov.	10	at Cincinnati	W	49-13
Nov.	17	Houston	W	41-7
Nov.	25	at L.A. Rams	W	45-6
Dec.	1	San Francisco	W	20-17
Dec.	8	at Buffalo	W	24-17
Dec.	12	N.Y. Jets	W	42-21
Dec.	22	at Cleveland	W	31-15
Dec.	29	Pittsburgh	W	28-10
Postseason				
Jan.	11	Tennessee	L	12-28

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Lamar Jackson	401	265	3,127	36	6
Robert Griffin III	38	23	225	1	2

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Lamar Jackson	176	1,206	6.9	7
Mark Ingram II	202	1,018	5.0	10
Gus Edwards	133	711	5.3	2
Justice Hill	58	225	3.9	2

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Mark Andrews	64	852	13.3	10
Marquise Brown	46	584	12.7	7
Hayden Hurst	30	349	11.6	2
Willie Snead	31	339	10.9	5

KICKING: Justin Tucker, 28-29 FGs, 57-59 PAT, 141 points

TACKLES: Chuck Clark, 73; Marlon Humphrey, 65

SACKS: Matthew Judon, 9.5; Tyus Bowser, 5

INTERCEPTIONS: Marlon Humphrey, 3; Marcus Peters, 3

2019 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	407.6	2	1
Rushing	206.0	1	1
Passing	201.6	27	12
Scoring	33.2	1	1
Third Down %	48.3	1	1
Punt Returns	8.2	8	5
Kick Returns	18.3	30	15

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	300.6	4	3
Rushing	93.4	5	2
Passing	207.2	6	5
Scoring	17.6	3	3
Interceptions	13	T12	T8
Sacks	37	21	10
Turnover Differential	+10	6	2

Scouting the Ravens

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP BALTIMORE "The Ravens looked unstoppable last year until their first-round playoff loss to the Tennessee Titans. MVP QB Lamar Jackson is the most electric playmaker we've seen at the QB position since Michael Vick. He got the majority of the spotlight for their 14–2 record, but it was their OL, running game, defense and special teams that were the main components to their success. This was the No. 1-ranked rushing offense with Jackson and RB Mark Ingram II accounting for a combined 2,389 yards and 17 TDs, but they had the 27th-ranked passing offense with no reliable receiving threats outside Pro Bowl TE Mark Andrews and WR Marquise Brown, who was playing hurt all season. ... The retirement of All-Pro OG Marshal Yanda will hurt this team on and off the field, but don't expect much of a drop-off from the OL unit. Ronnie Stanley has developed into an All-Pro LT. ... This was a top-five defense and got even better with the trade for Pro Bowl DL Calais Campbell and the signing of free agent DL Derek Wolfe, who both seem like perfect culture fits. They franchise tagged edge Matthew Judon, who led the team with 9.5 sacks, and they have high expectations for second-year edge Jaylon Ferguson, who was the NCAA's career sacks leader. ... They drafted athletic ILB Patrick Queen in the first round to address their biggest weakness on defense. ... This is an outstanding DB unit led by enforcing safety Earl Thomas III and All-Pro CBs Marlon Humphrey and Marcus Peters. ... Having all four top honchos coming back with HC, OC, DC and GM, the team will have higher expectations — but can they win in the playoffs?"

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
DE	Calais Campbell	Jacksonville
G	D.J. Fluker	Seattle
ILB	Jake Ryan	Jacksonville
DL	Derek Wolfe	Denver

KEY LOSSES −

POS.	PLAYER	2020 TEAM
ILB	Josh Bynes	Cincinnati
CB	Brandon Carr	Free Agent
TE	Hayden Hurst	Atlanta
S	Tony Jefferson	Free Agent
ILB	Patrick Onwuasor	New York Jets
DL	Michael Pierce	Minnesota
DE	Chris Wormley	Pittsburgh
G	Marshal Yanda	Retired

Offseason Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR	15	Marquise Brown	10	Chris Moore
WR	80	Miles Boykin	12	Jaleel Scott
WR	83	Willie Snead IV	13	Devin Duvernay (R)
LT	79	Ronnie Stanley	76	Andre Smith
LG	77	Bradley Bozeman	67	Ben Bredeson (R)
C	68	Matt Skura	65	Patrick Mekari
RG	70	D.J. Fluker	72	Ben Powers
RT	78	Orlando Brown Jr.	66	Will Holden
TE	89	Mark Andrews	86	Nick Boyle
QB	8	Lamar Jackson	3	Robert Griffin III
RB	21	Mark Ingram II	27	J.K. Dobbins (R)

DEFENSE

DE	93	Calais Campbell	53	Jihad Ward
DT	95	Derek Wolfe	92	Justin Madubuike (R)
NT	98	Brandon Williams	71	Justin Ellis
OLB	99	Matthew Judon	54	Tyus Bowser
ILB	48	Patrick Queen (R)	47	Jake Ryan
ILB	58	L.J. Fort	40	Malik Harrison (R)
OLB	45	Jaylon Ferguson	90	Pernell McPhee
CB	24	Marcus Peters	22	Jimmy Smith
CB	44	Marlon Humphrey	25	Tavon Young
FS	29	Earl Thomas III	32	DeShon Elliott
SS	36	Chuck Clark	41	Anthony Levine Sr.

SPECIALISTS

K	9	Justin Tucker	KR	16	De'Anthony Thomas
P	4	Sam Koch	PR	11	James Proche (R)

2020 VETERAN RAVENS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
3 Griffin III, Robert	QB	6-2	213	7	Baylor	FA-18	D1-Was-12
8 Jackson, Lamar	QB	6-2	212	2	Louisville	D1b-18	D1b-Bal-18
7 McSorley, Trace	QB	6-0	202	1	Penn State	D6-19	D6-Bal-19

RUNNING BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
35 Edwards, Gus	RB	6-1	238	2	Rutgers	FA-18	FA-Bal-18
43 Hill, Justice	RB	5-10	200	1	Oklahoma State	D4a-19	D4a-Bal-19
21 Ingram II, Mark	RB	5-9	210	9	Alabama	FA-NO-19	D1b-NO-11

RECEIVERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
89 Andrews, Mark	TE	6-5	256	2	Oklahoma	D3b-18	D3b-Bal-18
80 Boykin, Miles	WR	6-4	220	1	Notre Dame	D3b-19	D3b-Bal-19
86 Boyle, Nick	TE	6-4	270	5	Delaware	D5a-15	D5a-Bal-15
15 Brown, Marquise	WR	5-9	170	1	Oklahoma	D1-19	D1-Bal-19
14 Modster, Sean	WR	5-11	183	1	Boise State	FA-19	FA-Bal-19
10 Moore, Chris	WR	6-1	200	4	Cincinnati	D4b-16	D4b-Bal-16
85 Scarff, Charles	TE	6-5	249	1	Delaware	FA-19	FA-Bal-19
12 Scott, Jaleel	WR	6-5	210	2	New Mexico State	D4c-18	D4c-Bal-18
83 Snead IV, Willie	WR	5-11	200	5	Ball State	FA-NO-18	FA-Cle-14
16 Thomas, De'Anthony	WR	5-8	176	6	Oregon	FA-19	D4-KC-14
84 Wesley, Antoine	WR	6-4	206	1	Texas Tech	FA-19	FA-Bal-19

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
77 Bozeman, Bradley	G/C	6-3	317	2	Alabama	D6c-18	D6c-Bal-18
78 Brown Jr., Orlando	T	6-8	355	2	Oklahoma	D3a-18	D3a-Bal-18
70 Fluker, D.J.	G	6-5	342	7	Alabama	FA-Sea-20	D1-LAC-13
66 Holden, Will	G	6-7	312	3	Vanderbilt	FA-19	D5-Ari-17
65 Mekari, Patrick	G/C	6-4	308	1	California	FA-19	FA-Bal-19
72 Powers, Ben	G	6-4	310	1	Oklahoma	D4b-19	D4b-Bal-19
61 Prince, R.J.	G	6-6	320	1	North Carolina	FA-19	FA-Pit-18
68 Skura, Matt	C/G	6-3	313	3	Duke	FA-16	FA-Bal-16
76 Smith, Andre	T/G	6-4	325	11	Alabama	FA-20	D1-Cin-09
79 Stanley, Ronnie	T	6-6	315	4	Notre Dame	D1-16	D1-Bal-16

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
93 Campbell, Calais	DE	6-8	300	12	Miami	T-Jac-20	D2-Ari-08
71 Ellis, Justin	DT	6-2	350	6	Louisiana Tech	FA-19	D4-LV-14
94 Mack, Daylon	DT	6-1	340	1	Texas A&M	D5-19	D5-Bal-19
42 Ricard, Patrick	DL	6-3	303	3	Maine	FA-17	FA-Bal-17
53 Ward, Jihad	DE	6-5	287	4	Illinois	FA-19	D2-LV-16
98 Williams, Brandon	DT	6-1	336	7	Missouri Southern	D3-13	D3-Bal-13
95 Wolfe, Derek	DL	6-5	285	8	Cincinnati	FA-Den-20	D2a-Den-12

LINEBACKERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
51 Adeoye, Aaron	OLB	6-6	250	1	SE Missouri State	FA-19	FA-Bal-19
50 Alaka, Otaro	ILB	6-3	239	1	Texas A&M	FA-19	FA-Bal-19
49 Board, Chris	ILB	6-2	237	2	North Dakota St.	FA-18	FA-Bal-18
54 Bowser, Tyus	OLB	6-3	242	3	Houston	D2-17	D2-Bal-17
45 Ferguson, Jaylon	OLB	6-5	270	1	Louisiana Tech	D3a-19	D3a-Bal-19
58 Fort, L.J.	ILB	6-0	232	5	Northern Iowa	FA-19	FA-Cle-12
99 Judon, Matthew	OLB	6-3	261	4	Grand Valley State	D5-16	D5-Bal-16
90 McPhee, Pernell	OLB	6-3	269	9	Mississippi State	FA-Was-19	D5-Bal-11
59 Onuoha, Mike	OLB	6-5	255	1	Texas A&M-Comm.	FA-19	FA-Bal-19
47 Ryan, Jake	ILB	6-2	240	5	Michigan	FA-Jac-19	D4-GB-15

DEFENSIVE BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
34 Averett, Anthony	CB	5-11	184	2	Alabama	D4a-18	D4a-Bal-18
38 Bonds, Terrell	CB	5-8	182	1	Tennessee State	FA-19	FA-Bal-19
36 Clark, Chuck	S	6-0	205	3	Virginia Tech	D6-17	D6-Bal-17
32 Elliott, DeShon	S	6-1	210	2	Texas	D6a-18	D6a-Bal-18
44 Humphrey, Marlon	CB	6-0	197	3	Alabama	D1-17	D1-Bal-17
41 Levine Sr., Anthony	DB	5-11	207	8	Tennessee State	FA-12	FA-GB-10
37 Marshall, Iman	CB	6-1	210	1	USC	D4c-19	D4c-Bal-19
24 Peters, Marcus	CB	6-0	197	5	Washington	T-LAR-19	D1-KC-15
28 Richards, Jordan	DB	5-11	215	5	Stanford	FA-19	D2-NE-15
22 Smith, Jimmy	CB	6-2	210	9	Colorado	D1-11	D1-Bal-11
29 Thomas III, Earl	S	5-10	220	10	Texas	FA-Sea-19	D1b-Sea-10
25 Young, Tavon	CB	5-9	185	4	Temple	D4a-16	D4a-Bal-16

SPECIALISTS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
46 Cox, Morgan	LS	6-4	235	10	Tennessee	FA-10	FA-Bal-10
4 Koch, Sam	P	6-1	222	14	Nebraska	D6a-06	D6a-Bal-06
Moore, Nick	LS	6-3	250	1	Georgia	FA-20	FA-NO-19
9 Tucker, Justin	K	6-1	183	8	Texas	FA-12	FA-Bal-12

Andy Altenburger/Icon via AP

Ravens *in the Draft* | Grade: A

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	**Patrick Queen**	**ILB**	**6-0**	**232**	**LSU**
2.	J.K. Dobbins	RB	5-10	212	Ohio State
3.	Justin Madubuike	DT	6-3	293	Texas A&M
3.	Devin Duvernay	WR	5-11	210	Texas
3.	Malik Harrison	ILB	6-3	247	Ohio State
3.	Tyre Phillips	G/T	6-5	344	Mississippi State
4.	Ben Bredeson	G	6-5	315	Michigan
5.	Broderick Washington	DT	6-3	304	Texas Tech
6.	James Proche	WR	5-11	193	SMU
7.	Geno Stone	S	5-10	200	Iowa

The Ravens found a plug-and-play, sideline-to-sideline linebacker in Patrick Queen, addressing the thinnest position on the team, and they added a bigger, physical linebacker two rounds later in Malik Harrison. The second-round pick of J.K. Dobbins raised some eyebrows given the team's other needs, but with the Ravens' run-first approach, general manager Eric DeCosta said "it made too much sense." DeCosta identified Devin Duvernay as one of his favorite players in the draft, a speedy slot receiver with sure hands and toughness he likened to Anquan Boldin and Steve Smith Sr. Ben Bredeson and Tyre Phillips will join the competition to replace Pro Bowl guard Marshal Yanda, and the Ravens traded up to nab James Proche, a candidate for the return job.

Outside the Huddle

200/200 VISION The Ravens in 2019 became the first team in NFL history to average at least 200 rushing yards and 200 passing yards per game over an entire season. The Ravens averaged 206.0 rushing yards and 201.6 passing yards.

THURSDAY NIGHT LIGHTS During John Harbaugh's tenure, the Ravens are 7–0 in Thursday night home games and 13–2 in all prime-time home games. They had won 12 in a row before losing to the Tennessee Titans in the Divisional Round of the 2019 playoffs.

SEVEN UP FOR BROWN Receiver Marquise Brown tied a Ravens rookie record last year with seven touchdown catches. In Week 1 against Miami, Brown caught touchdown passes of 47 and 83 yards on his first two NFL receptions, becoming the first player in league history to record multiple touchdown catches of 40-plus yards in his debut.

"THE HEISMAN PACKAGE" Against the Cincinnati Bengals last year, the Ravens unveiled a formation featuring quarterback Lamar Jackson, backup quarterback Robert Griffin III and running back Mark Ingram II — all Heisman Trophy winners — in the backfield together. The Ravens refer to the formation as "the Heisman package."

DIABETES DOESN'T SLOW ANDREWS Tight end Mark Andrews, who led the Ravens last season in receptions (64), receiving yards (852), and touchdown catches (10), is a Type 1 diabetic who wears an insulin pump when not playing football. Andrews pricks his finger about 30 times during games to monitor his blood-sugar level.

MAKING A POINT Kicker Justin Tucker has finished with exactly 141 points in each of the past four seasons.

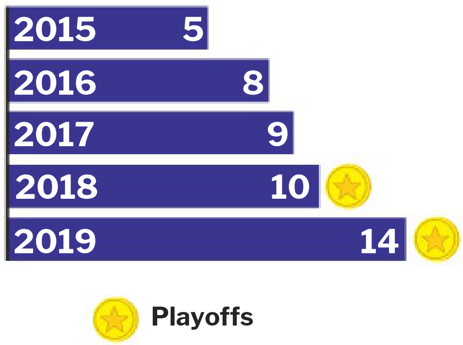
RECORD BOOK Punter Sam Koch needs to play in six games this season to become the all-time franchise leader. Koch has played in all 224 regular-season games since he was drafted in the sixth round in 2006. Terrell Suggs holds the franchise mark at 229, one game more than Ray Lewis.

PICKS FOR PETERS Cornerback Marcus Peters, acquired in a midseason trade with the Rams, scored interception-return touchdowns in two of his first three games as a Raven. Since joining the NFL in 2015, Peters leads the league in interceptions (27, nine more than second-place Stephon Gilmore) and interception-return touchdowns (six).

TWO-WAY PLAYER Patrick Ricard made the Ravens as an undrafted rookie defensive lineman in 2017, then added fullback to his repertoire and has established himself as the most prolific two-way player in the league. In 2019, Ricard played 342 snaps on offense and 140 on defense. He also played 102 snaps on special teams, becoming the only player in the league with more than 100 snaps in all three phases.

LUCKY 13 The Ravens had 13 Pro Bowlers in 2019, tying the 2007 Cowboys for the most selections from one team. The Ravens honorees were Andrews, tackle Orlando Brown Jr., long snapper Morgan Cox, cornerback Marlon Humphrey, Ingram, Jackson, linebacker Matthew Judon, Peters, Ricard, tackle Ronnie Stanley, safety Earl Thomas III, Tucker and guard Marshal Yanda.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



NUMBERS TO KNOW

54.9

Baltimore blitzed more than any team in the NFL per Sportradar data, sending more than five rushers on 54.9 percent of opponent dropbacks.

1,259

Lamar Jackson ran more RPO than any quarterback in the NFL, creating 1,259 yards out of it per Sportradar data.

70.8

The Ravens had an NFL-high 70.8 percent success rate on fourth-down attempts but failed twice vs. the Titans in the playoffs.

Cincinnati BENGALS

AFC North Forecast: 4

In the NFL, bad records aren't created equally. One team's 2–14 may not be as damaging as another's 5–11 because of the underlying circumstances or bad luck that cropped up along the way.

The 2019 Bengals likely fell into this category. Were they the worst team in football last year? The record says so, but the eye test says otherwise. Under first-year head coach Zac Taylor, Cincinnati was a competitive, feisty team throughout the second half of the season, especially when it received competent quarterback play. There were Pro Bowl-caliber players on both sides of the ball. There just weren't many wins.

That's likely to change sooner rather than later because the NFL doesn't look beyond the record when it doles out its draft picks. The Bengals got the first pick, and now they have their franchise quarterback in LSU's Joe Burrow. Tack on the expected return of All-Pro wide receiver A.J. Green, a reshaped defense and offseason spending unlike any in recent Bengals history, and there are plenty of reasons to ignore the 2019 record when assessing Cincinnati's prospects heading into 2020 and beyond.

OFFENSE Banners with Burrow's name hung at Paul Brown Stadium before the 2019 season came to an end. Now that he's officially theirs, the Bengals are hoping to go from good enough to great at the quarterback position with the No. 1 pick at the helm.

Since 2011, Andy Dalton had been the steady, adequate leader at the position who was rarely a game-changer but also rarely the reason why Cincinnati lost in a given week. That changed when Dalton was benched in favor of an overmatched Ryan Finley, who struggled mightily during the Bengals' worst stretch of 2019. Now, the belief is Burrow can elevate the Bengals in the opposite direction that only true franchise quarterbacks can — the way he orchestrated LSU's electric offense throughout one of the best seasons in college football history. He reportedly dove deep into the Bengals' offense weeks before he was even selected, helping make up for some of the lost on-field time due to the coronavirus outbreak. The Bengals expect him to be ready because his track record indicates he'll be more than prepared for the rigors behind the scenes and the bright lights on the main stage in the NFL. "I was waiting to see the flaw, waiting to see the hole," Bengals offensive coordinator Brian Callahan told Bengals.com. "The reality is, he only got better as the season went on. Against the best teams, he played his best."

Burrow doesn't quite have the supporting cast he had on an all-time loaded LSU offense, but the Bengals certainly aren't lacking at the skill positions. Whether or not the reports are true about Burrow's role in the decision, Cincinnati brought back Green on the franchise tag and hopes he can put together his first full season since 2017. Even if he can't, the Bengals are in much better shape than some of their rivals thanks to the return of Tyler Boyd, who will gun for his third straight 1,000-yard season, and addition of Tee Higgins, a 6'4", 215-pound second-round pick out of Clemson who drew pre-draft comparisons to Green. Speedster John Ross III faces a make-or-break season after showing signs of life in 2019, but he could become even more valuable in a receiving corps with so many different skill sets.

The running back stable of Joe Mixon and Giovani Bernard remains unchanged for a third consecutive year. If the Bengals get the Mixon who averaged more than 100 yards in the Bengals' final eight games of 2019, Burrow won't have to win games on his own — a luxury in the world of

THE ORGANIZATION

President: Mike Brown
Executive VP: Katie Blackburn
VP of Player Personnel: Paul Brown
Director of Player Personnel: Duke Tobin
Stadium: Paul Brown Stadium (65,515)
Surface: Artificial Turf
Website: www.bengals.com
Tickets: 513-621-TDTD (8383)
Training Camp: Paul Brown Stadium (Cincinnati, Ohio)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Zac Taylor
Record With Team: 2-14
Career Record: 2-14
Offensive Coordinator: Brian Callahan
Defensive Coordinator: Lou Anarumo
Special Teams Coordinator/Assistant Head Coach: Darrin Simmons
Quarterbacks: Dan Pitcher
Running Backs: Jemal Singleton
Wide Receivers: Bob Bicknell
Tight Ends: James Casey
Offensive Line: Jim Turner
Defensive Line: Nick Eason
Linebackers: Al Golden
Cornerbacks: Steve Jackson
Secondary/Safeties: Robert Livingston

2020 SCHEDULE

2019 NFL RANKINGS

Date	Opponent	Time	2019 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 13	L.A. Chargers	4:05	5-11	367.4 (10)	313.1 (6)	21.1 (21)	21.6 (14)
Sept. 17	at Cleveland (Thu.)	8:20	6-10	340.9 (22)	361.6 (22)	20.9 (22)	24.6 (20)
Sept. 27	at Philadelphia	1:00	9-7	360.8 (14)	331.7 (10)	24.1 (12)	22.1 (15)
Oct. 4	Jacksonville	1:00	6-10	341.8 (20)	375.4 (24)	18.8 (26)	24.8 (21)
Oct. 11	at Baltimore	1:00	14-2	407.6 (2)	300.6 (4)	33.2 (1)	17.6 (3)
Oct. 18	at Indianapolis	1:00	7-9	327.4 (25)	346.8 (16)	22.6 (t16)	23.3 (18)
Oct. 25	Cleveland	1:00	6-10	340.9 (22)	361.6 (22)	20.9 (22)	24.6 (20)
Nov. 1	Tennessee	1:00	9-7	362.8 (12)	359.5 (21)	25.1 (10)	20.7 (12)
BYE							
Nov. 15	at Pittsburgh	1:00	8-8	276.8 (30)	304.1 (5)	18.1 (27)	18.9 (t5)
Nov. 22	at Washington	1:00	3-13	274.7 (31)	385.1 (27)	16.6 (32)	27.2 (27)
Nov. 29	N.Y. Giants	1:00	4-12	338.5 (23)	377.3 (25)	21.3 (t18)	28.2 (30)
Dec. 6	at Miami	1:00	5-11	310.0 (27)	397.8 (30)	19.1 (25)	30.9 (32)
Dec. 13	Dallas	1:00	8-8	431.5 (1)	327.0 (9)	27.1 (6)	20.1 (11)
Dec. 21	Pittsburgh (Mon.)	8:15	8-8	276.8 (30)	304.1 (5)	18.1 (27)	18.9 (t5)
Dec. 27	at Houston	1:00	10-6	362.0 (13)	388.3 (28)	23.6 (14)	24.1 (19)
Jan. 3	Baltimore	1:00	14-2	407.6 (2)	300.6 (4)	33.2 (1)	17.6 (3)

Joe Mixon

RUNNING BACK

2019 RESULTS (2-14)

Sept.	8	at Seattle	L	20-21
Sept.	15	San Francisco	L	17-41
Sept.	22	at Buffalo	L	17-21
Sept.	30	at Pittsburgh	L	3-27
Oct.	6	Arizona	L	23-26
Oct.	13	at Baltimore	L	17-23
Oct.	20	Jacksonville	L	17-27
Oct.	27	at L.A. Rams	L	10-24
Nov.	10	Baltimore	L	13-49
Nov.	17	at Oakland	L	10-17
Nov.	24	Pittsburgh	L	10-16
Dec.	1	N.Y. Jets	W	22-6
Dec.	8	at Cleveland	L	19-27
Dec.	15	New England	L	13-34
Dec.	22	at Miami (ot)	L	35-38
Dec.	29	Cleveland	W	33-23

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Andy Dalton	528	314	3,494	16	14
Ryan Finley	87	41	474	2	2

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Joe Mixon	278	1,137	4.1	5
Giovani Bernard	53	170	3.2	0
Ryan Finley	10	77	7.7	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Tyler Boyd	90	1,046	11.6	5
Auden Tate	40	575	14.4	1
Alex Erickson	43	529	12.3	0
Tyler Eifert	43	436	10.1	3
Joe Mixon	35	287	8.2	3

KICKING: Randy Bullock, 27-31 FGs, 24-25 PAT, 105 points

TACKLES: Shawn Williams, 114; Nick Vigil, 111

SACKS: Carlos Dunlap, 9.0; Sam Hubbard, 8.5

INTERCEPTIONS: Darius Phillips, 4; Jessie Bates, 3

2019 TEAM STATS

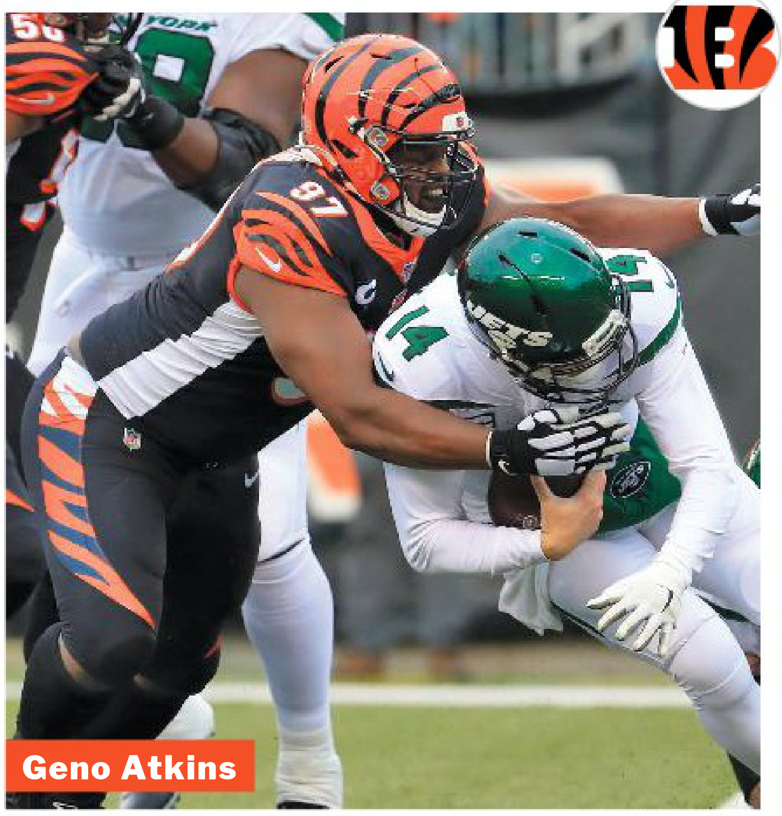
Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	323.1	26	12
Rushing	94.8	25	12
Passing	228.2	19	8
Scoring	17.4	30	15
Third Down %	36.0	22	10
Punt Returns	5.7	T26	14
Kick Returns	26.0	2	1

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	393.7	29	15
Rushing	148.9	32	16
Passing	244.8	21	11
Scoring	26.2	25	15
Interceptions	11	T22	T12
Sacks	31	T26	T13
Turnover Differential	-14	T29	15

Mixon, Atkins: Andy Lyons/Getty Images

No. 1-pick quarterbacks who typically walk into terrible situations.

Former first-round left tackle Jonah Williams will get a second shot at his rookie season after missing all of 2019 with a shoulder injury and will be in charge of protecting Burrow's blind side. The Bengals bring back most of an offensive line that wasn't great by any means in 2019 but was significantly improved over a disastrous 2018. Xavier Su'a-Filo fills the void left by John Miller, who was released at the start of the league year, and should provide an upgrade to the middle of Cincinnati's offensive line.


Geno Atkins

DEFENSE Though it's a new era for a young, new-look Bengals defense, two familiar figures remain on the front line. DE Carlos Dunlap has been as consistent as any player at his position over the past decade, and he hasn't lost much from his game as he enters his 11th season. DT Geno Atkins is coming off his sixth straight trip to the Pro Bowl and, until further notice, should be considered one of the best in the league. The veterans should get some significant help from D.J. Reader, a rare, big-time Bengals free agent acquisition who should be an upgrade from Andrew Billings, who left for Cleveland in free agency. The Bengals have high hopes for Reader, who became the highest-paid nose tackle in the league with a four-year, $53 million deal. He and the rest of the defensive line can start by forgetting 2019 ever happened when it came to run defense, as the Bengals can only improve after ranking dead last with an average of 148.9 yards allowed per game.

The transformation of Cincinnati's linebacking corps continued with more moves throughout the offseason, perhaps none bigger — oddly — than its third-round selection of Logan Wilson. The former Wyoming star, who racked up a whopping 421 tackles during his college career, could be counted upon right away because the Bengals, simply put, need to find someone who can tackle well in the middle of their defense. Veteran free agent signing Josh Bynes should bring some toughness, too, while Germaine Pratt enters his second season as the likely starter at Will after a promising finish to his rookie year.

Did we mention this is a new-look defense? It's no more apparent than in the secondary, where longtime Bengals Dre Kirkpatrick and Darqueze Dennard no longer roam. Both were essentially replaced by two former Vikings, Trae Waynes and Mackensie Alexander, who were salary cap casualties in Minnesota. Neither Waynes nor Alexander was elite by any means in Minnesota, but they were steady and will likely take on major roles in the Bengals secondary. Waynes was another uncharacteristic big-money signing for the Bengals (three years, $42 million), and he'll be asked to earn it by working on the opposite side of William Jackson III, another former first-round pick. Alexander, meanwhile, should help the Bengals in the slot while trying to maximize his personal standing in the league while he plays on a one-year "prove it" deal. Another free agent signing, Vonn Bell, is coming off four seasons as a strong safety in New Orleans, but he could be asked to play both safety spots in Cincinnati and won't be guaranteed a starting role. Veteran Shawn Williams has manned the strong safety spot for the past four seasons, while third-year free safety Jessie Bates III has started every game since the Bengals drafted him in 2018.

SPECIALISTS Randy Bullock put together another solid season in 2019 and likely won't face much competition to be Cincinnati's kicker for a fourth straight year. Same goes for Kevin Huber, who enters his 12th season as the team's reliable punter. Both, though, are in the final years of their respective contracts. WR Alex Erickson hasn't been a game-breaker on punts but isn't a liability by any means, while Brandon Wilson returns after proving to be one of the NFL's best on kick returns in 2019, averaging 31.3 yards a pop before suffering a season-ending injury.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Bengals were never as bad as their record indicated last season, but they attacked the offseason as if they were. With a new franchise quarterback at the helm and a defense that can't be much worse, the Bengals are poised to be competitive again in the AFC North, which could be a gauntlet for years to come.

2020 VETERAN BENGALS ROSTER

	QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
7	Dolegala, Jake	QB	6-7	242	1	Central Conn. St.	FA-19	FA-Cin-19
5	Finley, Ryan	QB	6-4	207	1	NC State	D4a-19	D4a-Cin-19

	RUNNING BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
33	Anderson, Rodney	RB	6-0	224	1	Oklahoma	D6c-19	D6c-Cin-19
25	Bernard, Giovani	RB	5-9	205	7	North Carolina	D2a-13	D2a-Cin-13
28	Mixon, Joe	RB	6-1	220	3	Oklahoma	D2-17	D2-Cin-17
31	Patrick, Jacques	RB	6-3	236	1	Florida State	FA-20	FA-Cin-20
34	Perine, Samaje	RB	5-11	240	4	Oklahoma	W-Mia-20	D4a-Was-17
32	Williams, Trayveon	RB	5-8	206	1	Texas A&M	D6a-19	D6a-Cin-19

	RECEIVERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
49	Böhringer, Moritz	TE	6-5	250	1	Aalen	FA-18	D6-Min-16
83	Boyd, Tyler	WR	6-2	203	4	Pittsburgh	D2-16	D2-Cin-16
82	Carter, Cethan	TE	6-3	248	3	Nebraska	FA-17	FA-Cin-17
12	Erickson, Alex	WR	6-0	195	4	Wisconsin	FA-16	FA-Cin-16
88	Franks, Jordan	TE	6-4	240	2	UCF	FA-18	FA-Cin-18
18	Green, A.J.	WR	6-4	210	9	Georgia	D1-11	D1-Cin-11
16	Irwin, Trenton	WR	6-2	207	1	Stanford	FA-19	FA-Mia-19
81	Lodge, DaMarkus	WR	6-2	202	1	Ole Miss	FA-19	FA-TB-19
17	Morgan, Stanley	WR	6-0	205	1	Nebraska	FA-19	FA-Cin-19
11	Ross III, John	WR	5-11	194	3	Washington	D1-17	D1-Cin-17
89	Sample, Drew	TE	6-5	258	1	Washington	D2-19	D2-Cin-19
86	Schreck, Mason	TE	6-5	252	3	Buffalo	D7-17	D7-Cin-17
19	Tate, Auden	WR	6-5	228	2	Florida State	D7c-18	D7c-Cin-18
80	Thomas, Mike	WR	6-1	189	3	Southern Miss	FA-LAR-20	D6c-LAR-16
87	Uzomah, C.J.	TE	6-6	260	5	Auburn	D5-15	D5-Cin-15
15	Willis, Damion	WR	6-3	204	1	Troy	FA-19	FA-Cin-19

	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
70	Dugas, O'Shea	T	6-4	335	1	Louisiana Tech	FA-19	FA-Cin-19
68	Hart, Bobby	T	6-5	310	5	Florida State	FA-18	D7-NYG-15
66	Hopkins, Trey	C/G	6-3	316	4	Texas	FA-14	FA-Cin-14
74	Johnson, Fred	T/G	6-6	325	1	Florida	W-Pit-19	FA-Pit-19
60	Jordan, Michael	G	6-6	315	1	Ohio State	D4c-19	D4c-Cin-19
53	Price, Billy	G/C	6-4	310	2	Ohio State	D1-18	D1-Cin-18
71	Prince, Isaiah	T	6-7	305	1	Ohio State	W-Mia-19	D6-Mia-19
62	Redmond, Alex	G	6-5	320	3	UCLA	FA-16	FA-Cin-16
76	Su'a-Filo, Xavier	G	6-4	312	6	UCLA	FA-Dal-20	D2-Hou-14
73	Williams, Jonah	T	6-5	305	1	Alabama	D1-19	D1-Cin-19

	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
92	Akinmoladun, Freedom	DT	6-3	284	1	Nebraska	FA-19	FA-NYG-19
97	Atkins, Geno	DT	6-1	300	10	Georgia	D4a-10	D4a-Cin-10
93	Brown, Andrew	DE	6-3	290	1	Virginia	D5b-18	D5b-Cin-18
96	Dunlap, Carlos	DE	6-6	285	10	Florida	D2-10	D2-Cin-10
98	Glasgow, Ryan	DT	6-3	300	3	Michigan	D4c-17	D4c-Cin-17
94	Hubbard, Sam	DE	6-5	265	2	Ohio State	D3a-18	D3a-Cin-18
58	Lawson, Carl	DE	6-2	265	3	Auburn	D4a-17	D4a-Cin-17
	Reader, D.J.	DT	6-3	347	4	Clemson	FA-Hou-20	D5b-Hou-16
91	Tupou, Josh	DT	6-3	345	3	Colorado	FA-17	FA-Cin-17
95	Wren, Renell	DT	6-5	318	1	Arizona State	D4b-19	D4b-Cin-19
72	Wynn, Kerry	DE	6-5	261	6	Richmond	FA-NYG-19	FA-NYG-14

	LINEBACKERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
56	Bynes, Josh	LB	6-1	235	8	Auburn	FA-Bal-20	FA-Bal-11
47	Calitro, Austin	LB	6-0	240	3	Villanova	W-Jac-20	FA-NYJ-17
50	Evans, Jordan	LB	6-3	242	3	Oklahoma	D6a-17	D6a-Cin-17
90	Finch, Sharif	LB	6-4	250	2	Temple	W-Ten-19	FA-Ten-18
57	Pratt, Germaine	LB	6-3	245	1	NC State	D3-19	D3-Cin-19
45	Sheldon, Brady	LB	6-5	231	1	Ferris State	FA-19	FA-LV-17

	DEFENSIVE BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
21	Alexander, Mackensie	CB	5-10	192	4	Clemson	FA-Min-20	D2-Min-16
24	Bell, Vonn	S	5-11	205	4	Ohio State	FA-NO-20	D2b-NO-16
30	Bates III, Jessie	S	6-1	200	2	Wake Forest	D2-18	D2-Cin-18
27	Brown, Tony	CB	6-0	199	2	Alabama	W-GB-20	FA-LAC-18
41	Henderson, Trayvon	S	6-0	205	2	Hawaii	FA-18	FA-Cin-18
22	Jackson III, William	CB	6-0	196	4	Houston	D1-16	D1-Cin-16
26	Mabin, Greg	CB	6-2	200	3	Iowa	FA-19	FA-TB-17
20	McTyer, Torry	CB	5-11	188	3	UNLV	FA-19	FA-Mia-17
24	Phillips, Darius	CB	5-10	190	2	Western Michigan	D5c-18	D5c-Cin-18
39	Rose, Winston	CB	6-0	174	1	New Mexico State	FA-19	FA-LAR-16
38	Sims, LeShaun	CB	6-0	203	4	Southern Utah	FA-Ten-20	D5b-Ten-16
26	Waynes, Trae	CB	6-0	190	5	Michigan State	FA-Min-20	D1-Min-15
36	Williams, Shawn	S	6-0	212	7	Georgia	D3-13	D3-Cin-13
40	Wilson, Brandon	S	5-10	200	3	Houston	D6b-17	D6b-Cin-17

	SPECIALISTS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
4	Bullock, Randy	K	5-9	210	8	Texas A&M	W-Pit-16	D5-Hou-12
84	Godsil, Dan	LS	6-3	240	1	Indiana	FA-20	FA-TB-19
46	Harris, Clark	LS	6-5	250	11	Rutgers	FA-09	D7-GB-07
10	Huber, Kevin	P	6-1	210	11	Cincinnati	D5-09	D5-Cin-09

Scouting the Bengals

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP CINCINNATI "When the Bengals fired longtime head coach Marvin Lewis at the end of the 2018 season, we never thought that in the span of just one season, they would become the worst team in the NFL. ... QB Andy Dalton had the biggest decline of any player last season, and QB Ryan Finley looks like a backup without much upside — but in comes Joe Burrow, who is dripping with confidence coming off arguably the best season by a college football QB. Star RB Joe Mixon amassed 1,137 yards, and WR Tyler Boyd finished with 90 catches for 1,046 yards. WR A.J. Green didn't play in 2019, so they drafted WR Tee Higgins to complement WRs Auden Tate and John Ross III. ... There were no stable starters on the OL last season, but with OT Jonah Williams returning and the addition of OG Xavier Su'a-Filo, this unit should be better. ... Pro Bowl DT Geno Atkins and edge Carlos Dunlap (9.0 sacks) have been the faces of this defense, but signing underrated DT D.J. Reader to pair with edges Sam Hubbard and Carl Lawson signals that the end is near for those veterans. ... Expect rookie ILB Logan Wilson to be the Day One starter next to Germaine Pratt. ... They have CB William Jackson III and nickel Darius Phillips (a team-leading four INTs) but added a pair of Vikings CBs in Trae Waynes and Mackensie Alexander to help bolster this unit. ... This is an underrated safety group led by rising superstar Jessie Bates III and reliable veterans Shawn Williams and Vonn Bell. ... Head coach Zac Taylor hopes that Burrow can duplicate his college magic, or else there could be a new coaching staff in Cincinnati."

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
CB	Mackensie Alexander	Minnesota
S	Vonn Bell	New Orleans
LB	Josh Bynes	Baltimore
DT	D.J. Reader	Houston
CB	LeShaun Sims	Tennessee
G	Xavier Su'a-Filo	Dallas
WR	Mike Thomas	L.A. Rams
CB	Trae Waynes	Minnesota

KEY LOSSES −

POS.	PLAYER	2020 TEAM
DT	Andrew Billings	Cleveland
QB	Andy Dalton	Dallas
CB	Darqueze Dennard	Free Agent
TE	Tyler Eifert	Jacksonville
S	Clayton Fejedelem	Miami
OT	Cordy Glenn	Free Agent
CB	Dre Kirkpatrick	Free Agent
G	John Miller	Carolina
LB	Nick Vigil	L.A. Chargers
CB	B.W. Webb	Free Agent

Offseason Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR	18	A.J. Green	11	John Ross III
WR	85	Tee Higgins (R)	80	Mike Thomas
WR	83	Tyler Boyd	12	Alex Erickson
LT	73	Jonah Williams	77	Hakeem Adeniji (R)
LG	60	Michael Jordan	62	Alex Redmond
C	66	Trey Hopkins	53	Billy Price
RG	76	Xavier S'ua-Filo	74	Fred Johnson
RT	68	Bobby Hart	71	Isaiah Prince
TE	89	Drew Sample	87	C.J. Uzomah
QB	9	Joe Burrow (R)	5	Ryan Finley
RB	28	Joe Mixon	25	Giovani Bernard

DEFENSE

DE	96	Carlos Dunlap	90	Khalid Kareem (R)
DT		D.J. Reader	91	Josh Tupou
DT	97	Geno Atkins	98	Ryan Glasgow
DE	94	Sam Hubbard	58	Carl Lawson
WLB	57	Germaine Pratt	51	Markus Bailey (R)
MLB	55	Logan Wilson (R)	56	Josh Bynes
SLB	50	Jordan Evans	59	Akeem Davis-Gaither (R)
CB	26	Trae Waynes	21	Mackensie Alexander
CB	22	William Jackson III	38	LeShaun Sims
SS	24	Vonn Bell	36	Shawn Williams
FS	30	Jessie Bates III	41	Trayvon Henderson

SPECIALISTS

K	4	Randy Bullock	KR	40	Brandon Wilson
P	10	Kevin Huber	PR	12	Alex Erickson

AP

Bengals *in the Draft* | Grade: A-

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	**Joe Burrow**	**QB**	**6-4**	**221**	**LSU**
2.	Tee Higgins	WR	6-4	215	Clemson
3.	Logan Wilson	LB	6-2	241	Wyoming
4.	Akeem Davis-Gaither	LB	6-2	215	Appalachian State
5.	Khalid Kareem	DE	6-4	268	Notre Dame
6.	Hakeem Adeniji	G	6-4	302	Kansas
7.	Markus Bailey	LB	6-0	235	Purdue

The Bengals had the easiest decision of anyone in the draft, as Joe Burrow, coming off a truly historic season at LSU, gives Cincinnati the hope that it has secured its franchise quarterback for many years to come. Even with the return of A.J. Green, the Bengals made sure that Burrow had another big weapon at his disposal with the addition of Tee Higgins, who racked up more than 2,000 yards and 25 TDs in his final two seasons at Clemson. The back-to-back selections at LB in Rounds 3 and 4 give Cincinnati a new look at a position that has struggled mightily over the past few seasons. Khalid Kareem should provide some quality depth on the D-line.

Outside the Huddle

WARM WELCOME According to ESPN's Adam Schefter, Joe Burrow officially found out he'd be the No. 1 pick one day before the 2020 NFL Draft. Owner Mike Brown sent Burrow a package that included a welcome letter and his first official Bengals jersey, which featured the No. 9 he will wear as a pro.

UP-CLOSE LOOK The Bengals coaching staff doesn't want to return to the Senior Bowl anytime soon, since that honor is usually bestowed on one of the worst-performing teams from the previous season. Still, Cincinnati made the most of its experience in Mobile, and it likely played a part in the team's picks on draft weekend. Three of the Bengals' seven picks were Senior Bowl players, including one — LB Akeem Davis-Gaither — who was on the Bengals-coached South team. LB Logan Wilson and OL Hakeem Adeniji played for the North team, which was coached by the Lions. Fifth-round pick Khalid Kareem was invited to the Senior Bowl but did not participate because of an injury. "The Senior Bowl was invaluable for us," defensive coordinator Lou Anarumo says. "It was an extra five days with these guys, and you got to know the players on both teams."

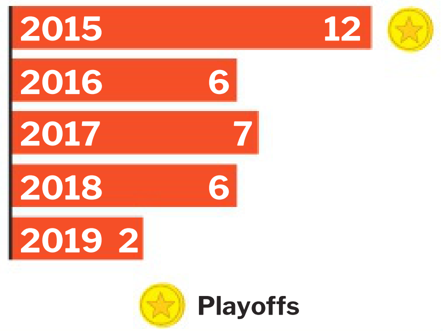
HELLO, MR. GREEN A.J. Green isn't old by any means. He'll turn 32 in July and hopes to have many years ahead of him in the NFL. You can forgive him for feeling just a little bit older, though, after Bengals second-round rookie Tee Higgins said Green was the player he idolized and tried to mimic throughout his high school and college days. "Man, it's crazy," Higgins said after the draft. "I was just talking about this to my good friend — 'I can wind up with the Bengals and be his teammate.' Now that this moment is here, it's surreal."

A FIRST FOR EVERYTHING Burrow kicked off a historic start to the 2020 NFL Draft for Ohio State, where he began his college career before transferring to LSU. His former teammates, DE Chase Young and CB Jeff Okudah, were selected with the second and third picks, respectively, marking the first time in the common NFL era that college teammates were selected with the draft's first three picks.

PICKING FROM THE TOP The Bengals held the No. 1 pick in each of the seven rounds in the 2020 NFL Draft. Those picks understandably are popular items, especially the second-rounder and fourth-rounder that lead off Days 2 and 3, respectively. Cincinnati loved them so much that it didn't trade a single one of them, making all seven selections and calling it a weekend. "Those picks are valuable," Bengals Director of Player Personnel Duke Tobin said before the draft. "You don't have to wait the whole day to pick. I like that."

AN INSPIRATION Running back Rodney Anderson has spent the offseason rehabbing with vigor from a knee injury that kept him off the field for all of his rookie season. The sixth-round pick out of Oklahoma has seen four of his past five football seasons end early because of injuries. "I just want to get healthy, get back on the field and contribute," Anderson told Bengals.com.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



NUMBERS TO KNOW

7.4

The Bengals allowed 7.4 net yards per passing attempt, the highest figure in the NFL.

2

Joe Burrow's 15.6 completion percentage over expected (CPOE) at LSU in 2019 was second best since 2011, behind only Russell Wilson (16.4 in 2011).

8

The Bengals lost all eight games last season decided by one score or less.

Cleveland BROWNS

AFC North Forecast: 3

The 2020 Browns have a new front office regime and a new coaching staff. If that sounds familiar, it should. The only head coach to make it more than two seasons under the ownership of the Haslam family has been Hue Jackson, and he didn't finish a third. John Dorsey was in charge of the roster for two years and three weeks, and the Browns added a bunch of talent during that time. But Dorsey was fired last December, in part because his coaching hire, Freddie Kitchens, flopped. The Browns had lots of hype entering last season but lost their final three games to finish 6–10.

Nick Chubb led the NFL in rushing until the season's final week. Chubb has a chance to be even better with new coach Kevin Stefanski's emphasis on a power run game. The Browns have added tight end Austin Hooper, fullback Andy Janovich and two new starting tackles, Jack Conklin and rookie Jedrick Wills Jr. On the other side of the ball, Myles Garrett has been fully reinstated and could chase the league's sack title. The Browns are remaking their linebacking corps and safety group, and they'll be counting on Garrett and Sheldon Richardson to help a talented defensive line make game-changing plays.

OFFENSE Mayfield was not his usual accurate and confident self for much of 2019, and his 21 interceptions were the second most in the league. Outside of Chubb, the offense as a whole was disjointed, disorganized and disappointing.

The offseason addition of Hooper might have surprised some, but the Browns moved quickly to secure his services with $23 million guaranteed. Adding two new tackles was always going to be in the plans, and the Browns gave Conklin $30 million guaranteed on the same day they signed Hooper. They used the No. 10 pick in the draft on Wills, who will play left tackle after playing exclusively on the right in both high school and college. A veteran line and new line coach Bill Callahan will play key roles in Wills' transition.

Though the Browns are buttoning things up with their base offense, they still have explosive playmakers at wide receiver in Jarvis Landry and Odell Beckham Jr. Both surpassed 1,000 receiving yards last season, but both expect more from themselves. Beckham had offseason surgery to repair a core muscle issue that limited him for much of last season. Landry had offseason hip surgery but is expecting full clearance. Landry is a crafty, physical receiver who knows how to get open and occasionally gets vertical. He hates being labeled as just a slot receiver and relishes his chances to make big plays.

Hooper, 25, caught 146 passes over the past two seasons for the pass-happy Falcons. The Browns will move him around the formation and hope he'll take advantage of mismatches. The amount of proven production across this offense is ridiculous; in addition to adding Hooper, the Browns plan to have Kareem Hunt for the whole season to complement Chubb and to occasionally play in the same backfield alongside him. When a former NFL rushing champion is your backup running back, you're sitting on some pretty good options. It's a big year for Mayfield, and he has plenty of guys to make plays if he can deliver them the ball accurately.

David Njoku had a lost season in 2019 and was replaced in the listed starting lineup by Hooper. But the Browns still believe Njoku can become a more consistent player, and Stefanski's commitment to using the tight end should give both Njoku and fourth-round rookie Harrison Bryant chances to make plays.

The Browns' commitment to a straight-ahead offense included a March trade for Janovich. The Browns are incorporating a full-

THE ORGANIZATION

Owner: Jimmy and Dee Haslam
Executive VP/Owner: JW Johnson
Executive VP of Football Operations/General Manager: Andrew Berry
Vice President of Player Personnel: Ken Kovash
Stadium: FirstEnergy Stadium (67,895)
Surface: Grass
Website: www.clevelandbrowns.com
Tickets: 440-824-3434
Training Camp: Cleveland Browns Training Facility (Berea, Ohio)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Kevin Stefanski
Record With Team: 0-0
Career Record: 0-0
Offensive Coordinator: Alex Van Pelt
Defensive Coordinator: Joe Woods
Special Teams Coordinator: Mike Priefer
Quarterbacks: TBD
Run Game Coordinator/Running Backs: Stump Mitchell
Pass Game Coordinator/Wide Receivers: Chad O'Shea
Tight Ends: Drew Petzing
Offensive Line: Bill Callahan
Defensive Line: Chris Kiffin
Linebackers: Jason Tarver
Pass Game Coordinator/Defensive Backs: Jeff Howard

2020 SCHEDULE

2019 NFL RANKINGS

Date	Opponent	Time	2019 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 13	at Baltimore	1:00	14-2	407.6 (2)	300.6 (4)	33.2 (1)	17.6 (3)
Sept. 17	Cincinnati (Thu.)	8:20	2-14	323.1 (26)	393.7 (29)	17.4 (30)	26.2 (25)
Sept. 27	Washington	1:00	3-13	274.7 (31)	385.1 (27)	16.6 (32)	27.2 (27)
Oct. 4	at Dallas	1:00	8-8	431.5 (1)	327.0 (9)	27.1 (6)	20.1 (11)
Oct. 11	Indianapolis	4:25	7-9	327.4 (25)	346.8 (16)	22.6 (t16)	23.3 (18)
Oct. 18	at Pittsburgh	1:00	8-8	276.8 (30)	304.1 (5)	18.1 (27)	18.9 (t5)
Oct. 25	at Cincinnati	1:00	2-14	323.1 (26)	393.7 (29)	17.4 (30)	26.2 (25)
Nov. 1	Las Vegas	1:00	7-9	363.7 (11)	354.8 (19)	19.6 (24)	26.2 (24)
BYE							
Nov. 15	Houston	1:00	10-6	362.0 (13)	388.3 (28)	23.6 (14)	24.1 (19)
Nov. 22	Philadelphia	1:00	9-7	360.8 (14)	331.7 (10)	24.1 (12)	22.1 (15)
Nov. 29	at Jacksonville	1:00	6-10	341.8 (20)	375.4 (24)	18.8 (26)	24.8 (21)
Dec. 6	at Tennessee	1:00	9-7	362.8 (12)	359.5 (21)	25.1 (10)	20.7 (12)
Dec. 14	Baltimore (Mon.)	8:15	14-2	407.6 (2)	300.6 (4)	33.2 (1)	17.6 (3)
Dec. 20	at N.Y. Giants	1:00	4-12	338.5 (23)	377.3 (25)	21.3 (t18)	28.2 (30)
Dec.26/27	at N.Y. Jets	TBD	7-9	273.0 (32)	323.1 (7)	17.2 (31)	22.4 (16)
Jan. 3	Pittsburgh	1:00	8-8	276.8 (30)	304.1 (5)	18.1 (27)	18.9 (t5)

W.E. Smith III

Baker Mayfield

QUARTERBACK

2019 RESULTS (6-10)

Sept.	**8**	Tennessee	L	13-43
Sept.	**16**	at N.Y. Jets	W	23-3
Sept.	**22**	L.A. Rams	L	13-20
Sept.	**29**	at Baltimore	W	40-25
Oct.	**7**	at San Francisco	L	3-31
Oct.	**13**	Seattle	L	28-32
Oct.	**27**	at New England	L	13-27
Nov.	**3**	at Denver	L	19-24
Nov.	**10**	Buffalo	W	19-16
Nov.	**14**	Pittsburgh	W	21-7
Nov.	**24**	Miami	W	41-24
Dec.	**1**	at Pittsburgh	L	13-20
Dec.	**8**	Cincinnati	W	27-19
Dec.	**15**	at Arizona	L	24-38
Dec.	**22**	Baltimore	L	15-31
Dec.	**29**	at Cincinnati	L	23-33

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	**ATT**	**COMP**	**YDS**	**TD**	**INT**
Baker Mayfield	534	317	3,827	22	21

RUSHING	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Nick Chubb	298	1,494	5.0	8
Kareem Hunt	43	179	4.2	2
Baker Mayfield	28	141	5.0	3

RECEIVING	**REC**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Jarvis Landry	83	1,174	14.1	6
Odell Beckham Jr.	74	1,035	14.0	4
Kareem Hunt	37	285	7.7	1
Nick Chubb	36	278	7.7	0
Ricky Seals-Jones	14	229	16.4	4

KICKING: Austin Seibert, 25-29 FGs, 30-35 PAT, 105 points

TACKLES: Joe Schobert, 133; Mack Wilson, 82

SACKS: Myles Garrett, 10.0; Larry Ogunjobi, 5.5

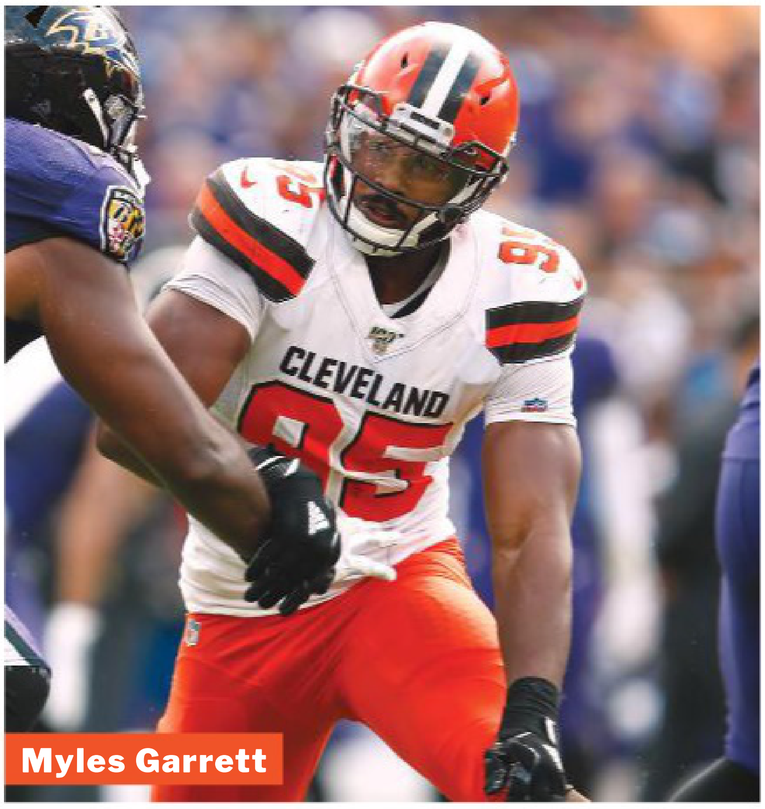
INTERCEPTIONS: Joe Schobert, 4; two tied with 2

2019 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	340.9	22	9
Rushing	118.8	12	6
Passing	222.1	22	10
Scoring	20.9	22	8
Third Down %	36.2	20	9
Punt Returns	7.1	T15	10
Kick Returns	21.8	T20	T11

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	361.6	22	12
Rushing	144.7	30	15
Passing	216.9	7	6
Scoring	24.6	20	12
Interceptions	14	T8	T5
Sacks	38	20	9
Turnover Differential	-8	26	13

back while the Broncos are moving away from using one, so Janovich was available for just a 2021 seventh-round pick despite signing a three-year extension with the Broncos last October.


Myles Garrett

W.E. Smith III

DEFENSE Garrett has been fully reinstated after the NFL suspended him indefinitely for swinging a helmet at Steelers quarterback Mason Rudolph. The Browns expect a refreshed and re-focused Garrett in his fourth year, and he should break the franchise single-season record of 14.0 sacks.

Last year's pass rush struggled without Garrett, and a defense that was susceptible to the big play all season got gashed by those plays last December. New coordinator Joe Woods has Richardson, Olivier Vernon, Adrian Clayborn and Karl Joseph to provide leadership and tutoring as the Browns work to get comfortable in their new scheme, and one of the best ways to help Garrett will be to stop the run and force opponents into must-pass situations.

The linebacker position is probably the biggest question mark, not just on the defense but across the whole roster. Christian Kirksey was released after dealing with injuries for most of the last two seasons, and the Browns chose to let Joe Schobert leave for the Jaguars in free agency. Schobert played every snap in 15 of the 16 games last season and called the defensive signals for the last three years. The Browns signed B.J. Goodson to provide short-term stability and drafted Jacob Phillips in the third round. But the man in the spotlight is second-year player Mack Wilson, an athletic player who was pressed into full-time duty last September after Kirksey's injury.

Denzel Ward and Greedy Williams return as the starting cornerbacks. Both are gifted young players who battled injury at various times last season, but the team believes both will continue to improve and become more consistent players. Veteran Kevin Johnson was added in free agency; Johnson played as a slot cornerback last season for the Bills and should play a similar role for this year's Browns.

The Browns are completely remaking the safety position. Veterans Joseph and Andrew Sendejo signed one-year contracts in March, and the Browns selected LSU's Grant Delpit in the second round. Delpit won the Jim Thorpe Award last season as the nation's top defensive back and figures to immediately take over the deep safety spot for the Browns. Joseph is a former first-round pick whose final season with the Raiders was cut short by injury. He will look to play his way into the team's long-term plans.

A deep tackle rotation and the presence of former Pro Bowlers Garrett and Ward give this defense a chance to make significant progress from last season, providing the Browns clean up their tackling and if young players like Wilson and Delpit can be playmakers.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Austin Seibert has a powerful leg but wasn't consistent, though it appears he'll be back for a second season. The Browns dumped veteran punter Britton Colquitt in summer 2019 in favor of undrafted rookie Jamie Gillan, who's still new to the game but has exceptional leg strength (46.2 avg.). The new regime kept veteran special teams coach Mike Priefer on the new staff, something that should bode well for the Browns' young specialists as they continue to progress. Under Priefer, the 2019 Browns made significant strides in most phases of special teams from recent years. The Browns signed JoJo Natson to a one-year deal in March in hopes of giving the return game a spark. Natson is a small but slippery return man who had some success with the Rams and will be given a chance to win both the kickoff and punt return jobs with the Browns. Sixth-round rookie Donovan Peoples-Jones will also be given a look as the punt returner.

FINAL ANALYSIS There's enough talent on hand that if the Browns clean up their discipline issues and stay healthy, they could end their 17-year playoff drought. In a year that's all about Mayfield proving he can be a franchise quarterback, he needs to be efficient, and the Browns need to support him with a strong run game and improved tackling. On paper, the offense looks loaded. If the new staff can get the players to buy in and catch on to the new schemes quickly, the Browns should be in the playoff mix.

Scouting the Browns

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP CLEVELAND "A season that started off with high hopes came to a crash landing with another regime change, handing the keys to head coach Kevin Stefanski and GM Andrew Berry. We saw a prime example of former GM John Dorsey accumulating talent but not building a team, leading to a 6–10 season. ... QB Baker Mayfield had a sophomore slump, but this offense needs to revolve around Pro Bowl RB Nick Chubb, who finished with 1,494 yards and eight TDs. ... This is one of the most talented WR duos, with Pro Bowlers Odell Beckham Jr. and Jarvis Landry. Stefanski likes to deploy two-TE sets and therefore signed TE Austin Hooper to a massive contract to pair up with TE David Njoku, who's had a disappointing career thus far. ... They have a solid interior OL but struggled at OT, so they signed OT Jack Conklin and drafted OT Jedrick Wills Jr. in the first round. ... They have a talented DL but underachieved last season after DE Myles Garrett had his helmet incident; expect him to come back with a vengeance after being suspended, showing why he's a top-five defensive player in the NFL. ... ILB Joe Schobert, who was a leader for this team on and off the field, departed in free agency, but they found a gem with ILB Mack Wilson last season. ... They have a young CB duo with Pro Bowler Denzel Ward and lengthy CB Greedy Williams. At safety, Sheldrick Redwine is intriguing, but they signed veteran Andrew Sendejo and thumper Karl Joseph and drafted rangy Grant Delpit. ... This team is talented enough to make the playoffs, but can Mayfield limit his turnovers and lead them there?"

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
DT	Andrew Billings	Cincinnati
DE	Adrian Clayborn	Atlanta
OT	Jack Conklin	Tennessee
LB	B.J. Goodson	Green Bay
TE	Austin Hooper	Atlanta
FB	Andy Janovich	Denver
CB	Kevin Johnson	Buffalo
S	Karl Joseph	Las Vegas
QB	Case Keenum	Washington
S	Andrew Sendejo	Minnesota

KEY LOSSES –

POS.	PLAYER	2020 TEAM
S	Morgan Burnett	Free Agent
CB	T.J. Carrie	Indianapolis
TE	Demetrius Harris	Chicago
WR	Rashard Higgins	Free Agent
LB	Christian Kirksey	Green Bay
S	Damarious Randall	Las Vegas
LB	Joe Schobert	Jacksonville

Offseason Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR	13	Odell Beckham Jr.	18	Damion Ratley
WR	80	Jarvis Landry	11	Donovan Peoples-Jones (R)
LT	71	Jedrick Wills Jr. (R)	70	Kendall Lamm
LG	75	Joel Bitonio	63	Evan Brown
C	64	JC Tretter	53	Nick Harris (R)
RG	77	Wyatt Teller	79	Drew Forbes
RT	78	Jack Conklin	74	Chris Hubbard
TE	81	Austin Hooper	88	Harrison Bryant (R)
TE	85	David Njoku	86	Pharaoh Brown
QB	6	Baker Mayfield	5	Case Keenum
RB	24	Nick Chubb	27	Kareem Hunt

DEFENSE

DE	54	Olivier Vernon	94	Adrian Clayborn
DT	65	Larry Ogunjobi	99	Andrew Billings
DT	98	Sheldon Richardson	61	Jordan Elliott (R)
DE	95	Myles Garrett	92	Chad Thomas
OLB	51	Mack Wilson	56	Willie Harvey
MLB	93	B.J. Goodson	44	Sione Takitaki
OLB	50	Jacob Phillips (R)	55	Tae Davis
CB	21	Denzel Ward	28	Kevin Johnson
CB	26	Greedy Williams	39	Terrance Mitchell
FS	22	Grant Delpit (R)	29	Sheldrick Redwine
SS	42	Karl Joseph	23	Andrew Sendejo

SPECIALISTS

K	4	Austin Seibert	KR 19	JoJo Natson
P	7	Jamie Gillan	PR 19	JoJo Natson

2020 VETERAN BROWNS ROSTER

	QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
3	Gilbert, Garrett	QB	6-4	230	2	SMU	FA-19	D6-LAR-14
5	Keenum, Case	QB	6-1	215	7	Houston	FA-Was-20	FA-Hou-12
6	Mayfield, Baker	QB	6-1	215	2	Oklahoma	D1a-18	D1a-Cle-18
	RUNNING BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
24	Chubb, Nick	RB	5-11	227	2	Georgia	D2b-18	D2b-Cle-18
25	Hilliard, Dontrell	RB	5-11	202	2	Tulane	FA-18	FA-Cle-18
27	Hunt, Kareem	RB	5-11	216	3	Toledo	FA-19	D3-KC-17
31	Janovich, Andy	FB	6-1	238	4	Nebraska	T-Den-20	D6a-Den-16
30	Johnson, D'Ernest	RB	5-10	208	1	South Florida	FA-19	FA-Cle-19
43	Stanton, Johnny	FB	6-2	240	1	UNLV	FA-20	FA-Min-18
	RECEIVERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
13	Beckham Jr., Odell	WR	5-11	198	6	LSU	T-NYG-19	D1-NYG-14
86	Brown, Pharaoh	TE	6-6	258	2	Oregon	FA-18	FA-LV-17
89	Carlson, Stephen	TE	6-4	240	1	Princeton	FA-19	FA-Cle-19
12	Hodge, KhaDarel	WR	6-2	205	2	Prairie View A&M	W-LAR-19	FA-LAR-18
81	Hooper, Austin	TE	6-4	254	4	Stanford	FA-Atl-20	D3-Atl-16
80	Landry, Jarvis	WR	5-11	196	6	LSU	T-Mia-18	D2-Mia-14
15	Montgomery, D.J.	WR	6-1	201	1	Austin Peay	FA-19	FA-Cle-19
16	Moore, J'Mon	WR	6-3	205	2	Missouri	FA-19	D4-GB-18
19	Natson, JoJo	WR	5-7	153	3	Akron	FA-LAR-20	FA-Ind-17
85	Njoku, David	TE	6-4	246	3	Miami	D1c-17	D1c-Cle-17
18	Ratley, Damion	WR	6-2	200	2	Texas A&M	D6a-18	D6a-Cle-18
10	Taylor, Taywan	WR	5-11	205	3	Western Kentucky	T-Ten-19	D3-Ten-17
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
75	Bitonio, Joel	G	6-4	320	6	Nevada	D2-14	D2-Cle-14
63	Brown, Evan	C/G	6-2	302	2	SMU	FA-Mia-20	FA-NYG-18
78	Conklin, Jack	T	6-6	308	4	Michigan State	FA-Ten-20	D1-Ten-16
79	Forbes, Drew	G	6-5	308	1	SE Missouri State	D6-19	D6-Cle-19
71	Gossett, Colby	G	6-5	330	1	Appalachian State	FA-19	D6-Min-18
74	Hubbard, Chris	T	6-4	295	6	UAB	FA-Pit-18	FA-Pit-13
70	Lamm, Kendall	T	6-5	310	5	Appalachian State	FA-Hou-19	FA-Hou-15
62	Pridgeon, Malcolm	G	6-6	331	1	Ohio State	FA-19	FA-Hou-19
77	Teller, Wyatt	G	6-4	315	2	Virginia Tech	T-Buf-19	D5-Buf-18
64	Tretter, JC	C	6-4	307	7	Cornell	FA-GB-17	D4b-GB-13
66	Wright, Willie	C	6-3	300	1	Tulsa	FA-19	FA-Cle-19
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
91	Ankou, Eli	DT	6-3	325	3	UCLA	FA-19	FA-Hou-17
99	Billings, Andrew	DT	6-1	328	4	Baylor	FA-Cin-20	D4-Cin-16
90	Bryant, Brandin	DT	6-3	294	1	Florida Atlantic	FA-19	FA-Sea-16
94	Clayborn, Adrian	DE	6-3	280	7	Iowa	FA-Atl-20	D1-TB-11
96	Ekuale, Daniel	DT	6-3	300	1	Washington State	FA-19	FA-Cle-18
95	Garrett, Myles	DE	6-4	272	3	Texas A&M	D1a-17	D1a-Cle-17
97	Gustin, Porter	DE	6-5	257	1	USC	FA-19	FA-NO-19
52	McCray, Robert	DE	6-1	273	1	Indiana	FA-19	FA-KC-18
65	Ogunjobi, Larry	DT	6-3	305	3	Charlotte	D3-17	D3-Cle-17
98	Richardson, Sheldon	DT	6-3	294	7	Missouri	FA-Min-19	D1b-NYJ-13
92	Thomas, Chad	DE	6-5	278	2	Miami	D3-18	D3-Cle-18
54	Vernon, Olivier	DE	6-2	262	8	Miami	T-NYG-19	D3a-Mia-12
59	Young, Trevon	DE	6-4	258	1	Louisville	FA-19	D6-LAR-18
99	Zimmer, Justin	DT	6-3	300	2	Ferris State	FA-19	FA-Buf-16
	LINEBACKERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
55	Davis, Tae	LB	6-1	224	2	Chattanooga	W-NYG-19	FA-NYG-18
93	Goodson, B.J.	LB	6-1	242	4	Clemson	FA-GB-20	D4-NYG-16
48	Grace, Jermaine	LB	6-1	223	3	Miami	FA-19	FA-Atl-17
56	Harvey, Willie	LB	5-11	230	1	Iowa State	FA-19	FA-Cle-19
44	Takitaki, Sione	LB	6-1	238	1	BYU	D3-19	D3-Cle-19
51	Wilson, Mack	LB	6-1	233	1	Alabama	D5a-19	D5a-Cle-19
	DEFENSIVE BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
49	Hassell, J.T.	S	5-11	200	1	Florida Tech	FA-19	FA-Cle-19
28	Johnson, Kevin	CB	6-0	185	5	Wake Forest	FA-Buf-20	D1-Hou-15
42	Joseph, Karl	S	5-10	200	4	West Virginia	FA-LV-20	D1-LV-16
34	Jackson, Robert	CB	6-2	207	1	UNLV	FA-19	FA-Ind-18
37	Lewis Jr., Donnie	CB	6-0	190	1	Tulane	D7-19	D7-Cle-19
41	Meander, Montrel	S	6-2	215	1	Grambling State	FA-19	FA-Cle-18
39	Mitchell, Terrance	CB	5-11	191	6	Oregon	FA-KC-18	D7-Dal-14
33	Olumba, Donovan	CB	6-2	205	1	Portland State	FA-20	FA-Dal-18
29	Redwine, Sheldrick	S	6-0	196	1	Miami	D4-19	D4-Cle-19
23	Sendejo, Andrew	S	6-1	210	9	Rice	FA-Min-20	FA-Dal-10
20	Thomas, Tavierre	CB	5-10	205	2	Ferris State	W-Ari-18	FA-Ari-18
21	Ward, Denzel	CB	5-11	190	2	Ohio State	D1b-18	D1b-Cle-18
26	Williams, Greedy	CB	6-2	185	1	LSU	D2-19	D2-Cle-19
	SPECIALISTS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
7	Gillan, Jamie	P	6-1	207	1	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	FA-19	FA-Cle-19
47	Hughlett, Charley	LS	6-4	248	5	UCF	FA-14	FA-Dal-12
4	Seibert, Austin	K	5-9	211	1	Oklahoma	D5b-19	D5b-Cle-19

Browns *in the Draft* | Grade: B

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	**Jedrick Wills Jr.**	**OT**	**6-4**	**312**	**Alabama**
2.	Grant Delpit	S	6-2	213	LSU
3.	Jordan Elliott	DT	6-4	302	Missouri
3.	Jacob Phillips	LB	6-3	229	LSU
4.	Harrison Bryant	TE	6-5	243	FAU
5.	Nick Harris	C	6-1	302	Washington
6.	Donovan Peoples-Jones	WR	6-2	212	Michigan

The Browns filled immediate needs with their first two picks, then focused on athletic players they believe will eventually fit their new schemes well. Jedrick Wills Jr. was their top-rated offensive tackle, and though he'll be the starter at left tackle, there will be a transition period, since he only played on the right side in both high school and college. Grant Delpit will be an immediate starter, and the Browns think he'll bring playmaking to the secondary. The rest of the roster is good enough that the Browns shouldn't have to push too many rookies into immediate duty, but Donovan Peoples-Jones will be given a shot to help in the return game.

Outside the Huddle

BAYOU BROWNS The selections of safety Grant Delpit in the second round and linebacker Jacob Phillips in the third give the Browns five LSU players on their roster — and potentially five starters. Last year, the Browns traded for Odell Beckham Jr. and paired him with his longtime best friend, Jarvis Landry, as the starting wide receivers. Landry and Beckham have been friends since high school, and Landry helped recruit Beckham to LSU. Delpit figures to be an immediate starter in the secondary, where he'll be reunited with former LSU cornerback Greedy Williams. The Browns drafted Williams in the second round in 2019.

HE'S SEEN SOME STUFF The longest-tenured Browns player is Joel Bitonio, a second-round pick in 2014 who's been to the last two Pro Bowls and has made 79 career starts at left guard. The Browns tinkered with moving Bitonio to left tackle in 2018 before moving him back inside. Kevin Stefanski will be the fourth full-time head coach for whom Bitonio has played.

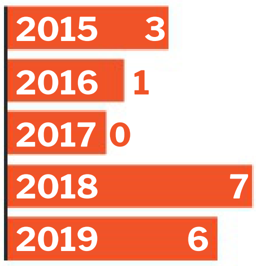
GOOD COMPANY Nick Chubb finished last season with 1,494 rushing yards and was passed by NFL rushing champion Derrick Henry in the final game of the season. But Chubb still had the best rushing season of the Browns' new era, the best by someone other than Jim Brown and the fourth best in team history.

HOMEGROWN TALENT Denzel Ward has only played football for Ohio-based teams. The second of the Browns' two first-round picks in 2018 and a Pro Bowl selection in his rookie season, Ward played at Nordonia High School in Summit County, about a 30-minute drive from the Browns' everyday headquarters in Berea. Ward played three years at Ohio State, and since he's been with the Browns he's been a productive player and active in the community. Ward's Make Them Know Your Name Foundation was started in honor of his late father, Paul, and works to educate groups on the importance of heart health.

NOBODY'S HOME The Browns drafted 14 players in 2016, which at the time tied a record for most selections by a team in a single draft. Rashard Higgins, who signed a one-year minimum deal to return, is the only one of those 14 still on the roster. The previous regime traded Corey Coleman, Emmanuel Ogbah, Cody Kessler and Shon Coleman. The Browns had a 10-man draft class in 2017; out of those 10 players, only Myles Garrett, David Njoku and Larry Ogunjobi remain.

SECOND TIME AROUND In the 2016 draft, the Browns traded out of the No. 8 pick and allowed the Titans to select Jack Conklin there. At the time, Conklin was a left tackle prospect out of Michigan State. Now he's the Browns' starting right tackle after four years playing that spot with the Titans. Conklin's ACL injury in the playoffs after the 2017 season led to the Titans not picking up his fifth-year option last spring, and though Conklin has played well since getting healthy, the Titans had other free agent priorities and had to let him leave. The Browns pounced in the first few hours of free agency, giving Conklin $30 million guaranteed over three years. He'll make $20 million in 2020.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



NUMBERS TO KNOW

140

Per Sportradar data, the Browns finished with a league-high 140 missed tackles.

-3.4

Baker Mayfield had a 59.4 percent completion rate compared to a 62.8 expected completion rate per NFL Next Gen Stats. Among QBs with 400 or more attempts, that was the fifth-largest negative differential.

11.9

Cleveland saw 11.9 percent of its offensive drives end via interception, the third-highest rate in the NFL.

Harrison McClary

Pittsburgh STEELERS

AFC North Forecast: 2

THE ORGANIZATION

President: Arthur J. Rooney II
VP: Arthur J. Rooney Jr.
VP/General Manager: Kevin Colbert
Player Personnel Coordinator: Dan Rooney Jr.
Stadium: Heinz Field (68,400)
Surface: Grass
Website: www.steelers.com
Tickets: 412-323-1200
Training Camp: Saint Vincent College (Latrobe, Pa.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Mike Tomlin
Record With Team: 133-74-1
Career Record: 133-74-1
Assistant Head Coach: John Mitchell
Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks: Randy Fichtner
Defensive Coordinator: Keith Butler
Special Teams Coordinator: Danny Smith
Running Backs: Eddie Faulkner
Wide Receivers: Ike Hilliard
Tight Ends: James Daniel
Offensive Line: Shaun Sarrett
Defensive Line: Karl Dunbar
Inside Linebackers: Jerry Olsavsky
Outside Linebackers: TBD
Defensive Backs: Tom Bradley
Senior Defensive Assistant/Secondary: Teryl Austin

The Steelers bet big on themselves in the days following Ben Roethlisberger's season-ending elbow injury. Instead of looking ahead to 2020, Pittsburgh promptly swung a trade with the Dolphins to acquire safety Minkah Fitzpatrick and parted with a first-round pick many believed could be as high as the top five. Instead, the Steelers scraped together eight wins despite some compromised quarterback play, and Fitzpatrick had an All-Pro season. Ultimately, the pick they parted with (No. 18) was well worth it for a player who helped transform the Steelers defense into one of the league's best.

Now, with Roethlisberger determined to return to his old form and Fitzpatrick hitting his prime, the Steelers' expectations are clear: End the two-year playoff drought by playing the kind of football Pittsburgh's been accustomed to for multiple generations.

OFFENSE Roethlisberger's return should bring a return to normalcy. Every last member of the offense was affected during his absence, as the Steelers had to find creative ways to pick up first downs and score points with Mason Rudolph and Devlin "Duck" Hodges under center. The question, though, is what Roethlisberger will have left to give as he attempts to come back from a serious injury to his throwing elbow. Roethlisberger has done this plenty of times throughout a career filled with bumps and bruises that have left him hobbling down the field, but this is his biggest challenge yet. "I'm throwing without pain for the first time in years," Roethlisberger told the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* in March. "Some games, I would have a little pain. Some games, I would have a lot of pain. … To be able to throw without pain now? That feels nice. That's a nice feeling. I know I'm not getting any younger, but I feel younger because I don't have any pain."

Put RB James Conner near the top of the list of those who could benefit from a healthy Roethlisberger. One year removed from a breakout season of close to 1,500 yards from scrimmage, Conner struggled in 2019 and was limited to 10 games because of injuries. Conner has missed a combined nine games over the past two seasons, so health is now a legitimate concern for the fourth-year player. Pittsburgh has invested draft capital at the position for three straight years, so a by-committee approach featuring Conner, Benny Snell Jr., Jaylen Samuels and new rookie Anthony McFarland Jr. can't be ruled out. Pittsburgh hasn't had much trouble getting production out of the position since Le'Veon Bell's departure, but the caveat is Roethlisberger, who is incredibly effective at getting the ball to running backs in short passing situations.

JuJu Smith-Schuster never really got rolling in 2019 thanks to Roethlisberger's injury and injuries of his own. That means 2020 will have to be the year he proves or disproves the notion he can be a leading man without Antonio Brown on the field. For now, he's the top dog in a young receiving corps that seemingly got better and more diverse in the draft thanks to the second-round selection of Notre Dame's Chase Claypool. The 6'4", 238-pound target has blazing speed and tight end size to make tough catches in the red zone. He should be a nice complement to Smith-Schuster, James Washington and Diontae Johnson — all of whom were selected in the second or third round in the past four drafts.

The signing of tight end Eric Ebron was one of the biggest in a relatively quiet Steelers offseason. Pittsburgh is hoping it gets the 2018 version (66 rec., 750 yards, 13 TDs) as opposed to last year's (31/375/3) to pair with

2020 SCHEDULE

2019 NFL RANKINGS

Date	Opponent	Time	2019 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 14	at N.Y. Giants (Mon.)	7:15	4-12	338.5 (23)	377.3 (25)	21.3 (t18)	28.2 (30)
Sept. 20	Denver	1:00	7-9	298.6 (28)	337.0 (12)	17.6 (28)	19.8 (10)
Sept. 27	Houston	1:00	10-6	362.0 (13)	388.3 (28)	23.6 (14)	24.1 (19)
Oct. 4	at Tennessee	1:00	9-7	362.8 (12)	359.5 (21)	25.1 (10)	20.7 (12)
Oct. 11	Philadelphia	1:00	9-7	360.8 (14)	331.7 (10)	24.1 (12)	22.1 (15)
Oct. 18	Cleveland	1:00	6-10	340.9 (22)	361.6 (22)	20.9 (22)	24.6 (20)
Oct. 25	at Baltimore	1:00	14-2	407.6 (2)	300.6 (4)	33.2 (1)	17.6 (3)
BYE							
Nov. 8	at Dallas	4:25	8-8	431.5 (1)	327.0 (9)	27.1 (6)	20.1 (11)
Nov. 15	Cincinnati	1:00	2-14	323.1 (26)	393.7 (29)	17.4 (30)	26.2 (25)
Nov. 22	at Jacksonville	1:00	6-10	341.8 (20)	375.4 (24)	18.8 (26)	24.8 (21)
Nov. 26	Baltimore (Thu.)	8:20	14-2	407.6 (2)	300.6 (4)	33.2 (1)	17.6 (3)
Dec. 6	Washington	1:00	3-13	274.7 (31)	385.1 (27)	16.6 (32)	27.2 (27)
Dec. 13	at Buffalo	8:20	10-6	330.2 (24)	298.3 (3)	19.6 (23)	16.2 (2)
Dec. 21	at Cincinnati (Mon.)	8:15	2-14	323.1 (26)	393.7 (29)	17.4 (30)	26.2 (25)
Dec. 27	Indianapolis	1:00	7-9	327.4 (25)	346.8 (16)	22.6 (t16)	23.3 (18)
Jan. 3	at Cleveland	1:00	6-10	340.9 (22)	361.6 (22)	20.9 (22)	24.6 (20)

T.J. Watt

LINEBACKER

hard-nosed Vance McDonald, who is back for a fourth season after reworking his contract. The offensive line they'll assist features one new face, Stefen Wisniewski, who is set to fill the void left by Ramon Foster, who retired after 11 seasons in black and gold.

Ben Roethlisberger

DEFENSE The Steelers are rolling it all back on defense in 2020 with the return of all their major contributors. And why wouldn't they? This was the unit that kept Pittsburgh afloat while the offense floundered without Roethlisberger. Some weeks, they singlehandedly won games because of their ability not only to create turnovers, but also to turn them into points. No one forced more turnovers in 2019 than the Steelers (38), and they needed every single one of them because they also ranked in the top five in turnovers committed (30). Banking on that kind of production would be a stretch, but the Steelers are well equipped to once again be among the league's best.

The defensive line should be boosted by the return of Stephon Tuitt, who missed the final 10 games of last season with a torn pectoral muscle. Pittsburgh certainly survived without him, but they'll gladly welcome him back to a defensive line that features big Dan McCullers in the middle and Cameron Heyward on the opposite end. Entering his 10th season, Heyward is coming off his third straight Pro Bowl and second All-Pro nod in the last three years. Instead of slowing down as he enters the latter stage of his career, he seems to be getting better, and that has meant big problems for opposing offensive linemen, who have seen him collect more than half of his 54 career sacks in the past three years.

The Steelers' linebacker corps got a jolt of energy from Devin Bush, who started all but one game in his rookie season. He already appears to be well worth the trade Pittsburgh had to make on draft day, when it moved up 10 spots to nab the former Michigan star, and he's helped fill the massive void in the middle left by the retired Ryan Shazier. With the middle settled thanks to Bush's arrival, Pittsburgh's outside linebackers thrived with massive production that will be hard to replicate in 2020. All-Pro T.J. Watt and Bud Dupree combined for 26 sacks and a whopping 12 forced fumbles. In the final year of his contract, Dupree, who had struggled to get going through the first part of his career, had a lot to play for in 2019. He didn't get quite what he wanted, as the Steelers gave him the franchise tag, but that means he'll once again be playing for a new contract in 2020.

Fitzpatrick truly was the missing piece for a Pittsburgh secondary that has been completely revamped over the course of a few years. He did a little bit of everything in the back end of the Steelers' defense. Most importantly, he got his hands on the ball and changed games with backbreaking turnovers, two of which he took to the house for touchdowns. A player like that makes everyone around him a little bit better, and that's true of teammates such as veteran Joe Haden, who has seemingly tapped into the Fountain of Youth since joining the Steelers, Steven Nelson and dangerous slot corner Mike Hilton. SS Terrell Edmunds has started all but one game since the Steelers made him a first-round pick in 2018, and though he hasn't been the playmaker that Fitzpatrick has become, he's certainly filled his role admirably on a Pittsburgh defense that has few areas of weakness.

SPECIALISTS After putting a scare into Steelers Nation in 2018, Chris Boswell appears to be back to his old self and is coming off a season in which he missed just two field goals (and hit all of his extra points). Jordan Berry hasn't provided much stress for the Steelers at punter since he joined the team in 2015. Pittsburgh might have found something with Diontae Johnson at punt returner, as he took one back 85 yards for a touchdown and averaged more than 12 yards per return in his rookie season.

FINAL ANALYSIS Everything about this Steelers season hinges on Roethlisberger's elbow. If he's back to the way he played in 2018, this is a legitimate challenger to the budding Ravens juggernaut in the AFC North. If he's not, the Steelers will still pull together a handful of wins because that's what they always do, but they'll likely be staring at their first three-year playoff drought since before the Steelers drafted him.

2019 RESULTS (8-8)

Sept.	**8**	at New England	L	3-33
Sept.	**15**	Seattle	L	26-28
Sept.	**22**	at San Francisco	L	20-24
Sept.	**30**	Cincinnati	W	27-3
Oct.	**6**	Baltimore (ot)	L	23-26
Oct.	**13**	at L.A. Chargers	W	24-17
Oct.	**28**	Miami	W	27-14
Nov.	**3**	Indianapolis	W	26-24
Nov.	**10**	L.A. Rams	W	17-12
Nov.	**14**	at Cleveland	L	7-21
Nov.	**24**	at Cincinnati	W	16-10
Dec.	**1**	Cleveland	W	20-13
Dec.	**8**	at Arizona	W	23-17
Dec.	**15**	Buffalo	L	10-17
Dec.	**22**	at N.Y. Jets	L	10-16
Dec.	**29**	at Baltimore	L	10-28

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Mason Rudolph	283	176	1,765	13	9
Devlin Hodges	160	100	1,063	5	8

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
James Conner	116	464	4.0	4
Benny Snell Jr.	108	426	3.9	2
Jaylen Samuels	66	175	2.7	1

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
James Washington	44	735	16.7	3
Diontae Johnson	59	680	11.5	5
JuJu Smith-Schuster	42	552	13.1	3
Jaylen Samuels	47	305	6.5	1
Vance McDonald	38	273	7.2	3
James Conner	34	251	7.4	3

KICKING: Chris Boswell, 29-31 FGs, 28-28 PAT, 115 points

TACKLES: Devin Bush, 109; Terrell Edmunds, 105

SACKS: T.J. Watt, 14.5; Bud Dupree, 11.5

INTERCEPTIONS: Minkah Fitzpatrick, 5; Joe Haden, 5

2019 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	276.8	30	15
Rushing	90.4	29	14
Passing	186.3	31	16
Scoring	18.1	27	13
Third Down %	34.4	27	13
Punt Returns	9.8	T3	3
Kick Returns	18.1	31	16

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	304.1	5	4
Rushing	109.6	14	8
Passing	194.6	3	2
Scoring	18.9	T5	4
Interceptions	20	2	2
Sacks	54	1	1
Turnover Differential	+8	T7	T3

Watt: Margaret Bowles via AP; Roethlisberger: Harrison McClary

2020 VETERAN STEELERS ROSTER

	QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
16	Barrett, J.T.	QB	6-2	225	2	Ohio State	FA-19	FA-NO-18
6	Hodges, Devlin	QB	6-1	210	1	Samford	FA-19	FA-Pit-19
5	Lynch, Paxton	QB	6-7	244	2	Memphis	FA-19	D1-Den-16
7	Roethlisberger, Ben	QB	6-5	240	16	Miami (OH)	D1-04	D1-Pit-04
2	Rudolph, Mason	QB	6-5	235	2	Oklahoma State	D3a-18	D3a-Pit-18

	RUNNING BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
30	Conner, James	RB	6-1	233	3	Pittsburgh	D3b-17	D3b-Pit-17
33	Edmunds, Trey	RB	6-2	223	2	Maryland	FA-18	FA-Pit-18
38	Samuels, Jaylen	RB	6-0	225	2	NC State	D5b-18	D5b-Pit-18
24	Snell Jr., Benny	RB	5-10	224	1	Kentucky	D4-19	D4-Pit-19
44	Watt, Derek	FB	6-2	234	4	Wisconsin	FA-LAC-20	D6-LAC-16
42	Webb, Ralph	RB	5-10	200	1	Vanderbilt	FA-18	FA-Pit-18
40	Whyte, Kerrith	RB	5-10	204	1	Florida Atlantic	FA-19	D7-Chi-19

	RECEIVERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
80	Blacknall, Saeed	WR	6-3	212	1	Penn State	FA-20	FA-LV-18
17	Cain, Deon	WR	6-2	202	2	Clemson	FA-19	D6-Ind-18
82	Darboh, Amara	WR	6-2	215	2	Michigan	FA-19	D3-Sea-17
85	Ebron, Eric	TE	6-4	253	6	North Carolina	FA-Ind-20	D1-Det-14
81	Gentry, Zach	TE	6-8	265	1	Michigan	D5-19	D5-Pit-19
15	Henderson, Quadree	WR	5-8	192	1	Pittsburgh	FA-19	FA-Pit-18
83	Johnson, Anthony	WR	6-2	220	1	Buffalo	FA-19	FA-TB-19
18	Johnson, Diontae	WR	5-10	183	1	Toledo	D3a-19	D3a-Pit-19
89	McDonald, Vance	TE	6-4	267	7	Rice	T-SF-17	D2-SF-13
87	Rader, Kevin	TE	6-4	250	1	Youngstown State	FA-19	FA-GB-18
49	Scotland-Williamson, Christian	TE	6-9	274	1	Loughborough	FA-18	FA-Pit-18
19	Smith-Schuster, JuJu	WR	6-1	215	3	USC	D2-17	D2-Pit-17
10	Switzer, Ryan	WR	5-8	185	3	North Carolina	T-LV-18	D4-Dal-17
13	Washington, James	WR	5-11	213	2	Oklahoma State	D2-18	D2-Pit-18

	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
72	Banner, Zach	T	6-8	360	3	USC	FA-18	D4-Ind-17
68	Coyle, Anthony	G/T	6-4	298	1	Fordham	FA-20	FA-Hou-18
66	DeCastro, David	G	6-5	316	8	Stanford	D1-12	D1-Pit-12
74	DiLauro, Christian	G/T	6-6	300	1	Illinois	FA-19	FA-Cle-18
71	Feiler, Matt	T	6-6	330	3	Bloomsburg	FA-16	FA-Hou-14
77	Gray, Derwin	T	6-4	320	1	Maryland	D7-19	D7-Pit-19
60	Hassenauer, J.C.	C	6-2	295	1	Alabama	FA-19	FA-Atl-18
79	Jones, Jarron	T	6-6	320	1	Notre Dame	FA-20	FA-NYG-17
64	Keenoy, John	C/G	6-3	300	1	Western Michigan	FA-20	FA-Min-19
76	Okorafor, Chukwuma	OL	6-6	320	2	Western Michigan	D3b-18	D3b-Pit-18
53	Pouncey, Maurkice	C	6-4	304	10	Florida	D1-10	D1-Pit-10
78	Villanueva, Alejandro	T	6-9	320	5	Army	FA-14	FA-Phi-14
61	Wisniewski, Stefen	G	6-3	305	9	Penn State	FA-KC-20	D2-LV-11

	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
94	Alualu, Tyson	DE	6-3	304	10	California	FA-Jac-17	D1-Jac-10
96	Buggs, Isaiah	DE	6-3	295	1	Alabama	D6b-19	D6b-Pit-19
40	Hendrix, Dewayne	DE	6-4	270	1	Pittsburgh	FA-20	FA-Mia-19
97	Heyward, Cameron	DT	6-5	295	9	Ohio State	D1-11	D1-Pit-11
93	McCullers, Dan	DT	6-7	352	6	Tennessee	D6b-14	D6b-Pit-14
99	Mondeaux, Henry	DE	6-4	280	1	Oregon	FA-18	FA-NO-18
91	Tuitt, Stephon	DE	6-6	303	6	Notre Dame	D2-14	D2-Pit-14
79	Walker, Cavon	DE	6-2	278	1	Maryland	FA-20	FA-Chi-18
95	Wormley, Chris	DE	6-5	300	3	Michigan	T-Bal-20	D3a-Bal-17

	LINEBACKERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
92	Adeniyi, Olasunkanmi	LB	6-1	248	2	Toledo	FA-18	FA-Pit-18
55	Bush, Devin	LB	5-11	234	1	Michigan	D1-19	D1-Pit-19
48	Dupree, Bud	LB	6-4	269	5	Kentucky	D1-15	D1-Pit-15
54	Gilbert III, Ulysees	LB	6-0	230	1	Akron	D6c-19	D6c-Pit-19
46	Kuntz, Christian	LB	6-1	227	1	Duquesne	FA-19	FA-NE-17
51	Skipper, Tuzar	LB	6-3	246	1	Toledo	FA-19	FA-Pit-19
41	Spillane, Robert	LB	6-1	229	1	Western Michigan	FA-19	FA-Ten-18
90	Watt, T.J.	LB	6-4	252	3	Wisconsin	D1-17	D1-Pit-17
98	Williams, Vince	LB	6-1	233	7	Florida State	D6b-13	D6b-Pit-13

	DEFENSIVE BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
27	Allen, Marcus	S	6-2	215	2	Penn State	D5a-18	D5a-Pit-18
21	Battle, John	S	6-0	201	1	LSU	FA-20	FA-NYJ-19
24	Borders, Breon	CB	6-0	189	2	Duke	FA-20	FA-LV-17
37	Dangerfield, Jordan	S	5-11	199	3	Towson	FA-15	FA-Buf-13
34	Edmunds, Terrell	S	6-1	217	2	Virginia Tech	D1-18	D1-Pit-18
39	Fitzpatrick, Minkah	S	6-1	207	2	Alabama	T-Mia-19	D1-Mia-18
23	Haden, Joe	CB	5-11	195	10	Florida	FA-17	D1-Cle-10
28	Hilton, Mike	CB	5-9	184	3	Ole Miss	FA-16	FA-Jac-16
29	Kinnel, Tyree	S	5-11	207	1	Michigan	FA-20	FA-Cin-19
31	Layne, Justin	CB	6-2	192	1	Michigan State	D3b-19	D3b-Pit-19
35	Myres, Alexander	CB	5-11	192	1	Houston	FA-19	FA-Pit-19
22	Nelson, Steven	CB	5-11	194	5	Oregon State	FA-KC-19	D3b-KC-15
33	Springs, Arrion	CB/S	5-11	208	1	Oregon	FA-20	FA-KC-18
20	Sutton, Cameron	CB	5-11	188	3	Tennessee	D3a-17	D3a-Pit-17

	SPECIALISTS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
4	Berry, Jordan	P	6-5	195	5	Eastern Kentucky	FA-15	FA-Pit-15
9	Boswell, Chris	K	6-2	185	5	Rice	FA-15	FA-Hou-14
57	Canaday, Kameron	LS	6-4	245	3	Portland State	FA-17	FA-Ari-16

Scouting the Steelers

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP PITTSBURGH "This was arguably Mike Tomlin's best season of coaching yet, when you consider the challenge of losing Ben Roethlisberger in Week 2. … Opposing defenses loaded the box to take away the running game, but James Conner and the unit still fought hard. WR JuJu Smith-Schuster had a career-worst season, but rookie WR Diontae Johnson stepped up to the challenge. TE Vance McDonald is an underrated player, and this unit got stronger with the addition of athletic TE Eric Ebron. … Longtime OG Ramon Foster retired, but this is still a top-10 OL unit with good depth. … This is a top-five defense that led the league in sacks last season, starting with dominant All-Pro DE Cameron Heyward and DE Stephon Tuitt. All-Pro edge T.J. Watt finished with a career-high 14.5 sacks, and they franchise-tagged edge Bud Dupree, who finished with a career-high 11.5 sacks. In last year's draft, they traded up to get star ILB Devin Bush, who is a perfect culture fit and led the team in tackles. … Veteran CB Joe Haden had a great season, but at the age of 31, can he be consistent? The early-season trade for ball-hawking DB Minkah Fitzpatrick was electrifying and allowed safety Terrell Edmunds to be a successful run defender. … Expect this team to be back in the playoffs. The potential for a Super Bowl run will be in direct correlation with Roethlisberger's health."

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
WR	Saeed Blacknall	XFL Los Angeles
TE	Eric Ebron	Indianapolis
FB	Derek Watt	L.A. Chargers
OL	Stefen Wisniewski	Kansas City
DE	Chris Wormley	Baltimore

KEY LOSSES −

POS.	PLAYER	2020 TEAM
LB	Mark Barron	Free Agent
CB	Artie Burns	Chicago
LB	Anthony Chickillo	Free Agent
S	Sean Davis	Washington
C	B.J. Finney	Seattle
OL	Ramon Foster	Retired
DT	Javon Hargrave	Philadelphia
LB	Tyler Matakevich	Buffalo
FB	Roosevelt Nix	Indianapolis
TE	Nick Vannett	Denver

Offseason Depth Chart

OFFENSE

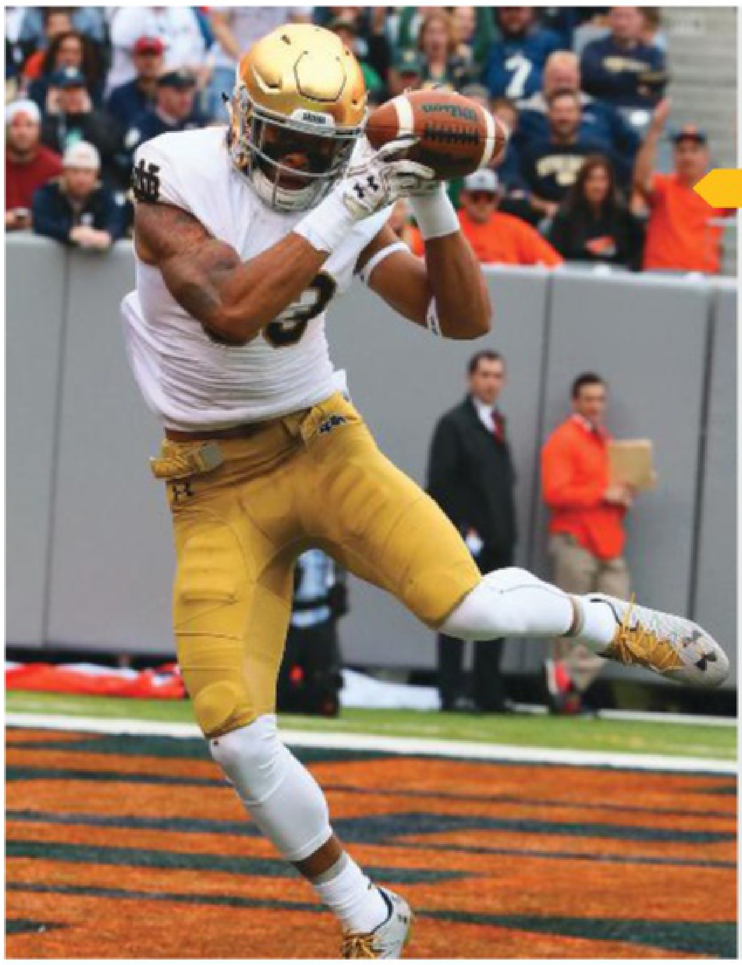
WR	19	JuJu Smith-Schuster	11	Chase Claypool (R)
WR	13	James Washington	10	Ryan Switzer
WR	18	Diontae Johnson	17	Deon Cain
LT	78	Alejandro Villanueva	76	Chukwuma Okorafor
LG	61	Stefen Wisniewski	69	Kevin Dotson (R)
C	53	Maurkice Pouncey	61	Stefen Wisniewski
RG	66	David DeCastro	74	Christian DiLauro
RT	71	Matt Feiler	72	Zach Banner
TE	89	Vance McDonald	85	Eric Ebron
QB	7	Ben Roethlisberger	2	Mason Rudolph
RB	30	James Conner	38	Jaylen Samuels

DEFENSE

DE	91	Stephon Tuitt	94	Tyson Alualu
DT	93	Dan McCullers	95	Chris Wormley
DE	97	Cameron Heyward	96	Isaiah Buggs
WLB	90	T.J. Watt	92	Olasunkanmi Adeniyi
LILB	98	Vince Williams	46	Christian Kuntz
RILB	55	Devin Bush	54	Ulysees Gilbert III
SLB	48	Bud Dupree	56	Alex Highsmith (R)
CB	23	Joe Haden	28	Mike Hilton
CB	22	Steven Nelson	20	Cameron Sutton
SS	34	Terrell Edmunds	37	Jordan Dangerfield
FS	39	Minkah Fitzpatrick	27	Marcus Allen

SPECIALISTS

K	9	Chris Boswell	KR	10	Ryan Switzer
P	4	Jordan Berry	PR	18	Diontae Johnson



Steelers *in the Draft* | Grade: B

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
2.	**Chase Claypool**	**WR**	**6-4**	**238**	**Notre Dame**
3.	Alex Highsmith	LB	6-4	242	Charlotte
4.	Anthony McFarland Jr.	RB	5-8	193	Maryland
4.	Kevin Dotson	G	6-4	321	Louisiana
6.	Antoine Brooks Jr.	S	5-11	210	Maryland
7.	Carlos Davis	DT	6-2	320	Nebraska

The Steelers' first-round pick in the 2020 NFL Draft was traded to Miami in exchange for All-Pro safety Minkah Fitzpatrick, so it's safe to say Pittsburgh feels pretty good about that deal. The addition of the big-bodied Chase Claypool gives the Steelers' young receiving corps a different kind of playmaking option who can make an immediate impact. Alex Highsmith was a defensive end in college who will make the transition to an outside linebacker in Pittsburgh's trademark 3-4 look. The pick of Anthony McFarland Jr. marked the second straight year Pittsburgh addressed the RB position in the fourth round.

Outside the Huddle

XCELLENT PICK-UPS No team in the NFL pounced on free agents from the XFL more than the Steelers, who inked deals with nine players from the defunct league, such as wideout Saeed Blacknall and DB Breon Borders. Pittsburgh GM Kevin Colbert said the limitations of the COVID-19 pandemic made it a practical solution because of the limited ability to evaluate potential undrafted free agents. "It was good that those players were made available to us, going through this draft as we are with some limited information," Colbert told Steelers.com. "Knowing these players a little bit better, we felt it was important to add as many as we thought could help us in terms of competitive players for training camp."

GIVING BACK Kiya Tomlin, the wife of Steelers head coach Mike Tomlin, felt the call to action when the COVID-19 outbreak swept across the country and caused shortages in personal protective equipment (PPE). The clothing designer quickly shifted her operations to make masks for local hospitals. "I didn't realize how fast and big the demand was going to be where now we have to deliver," Tomlin told ESPN.com. "Masks can be made. We make masks now."

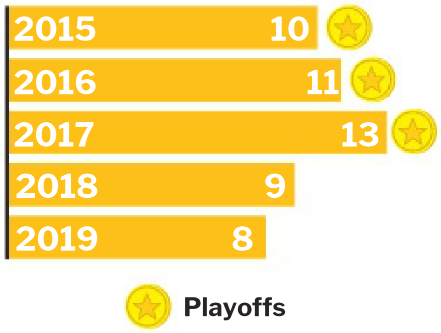
SCRUFFY LOOK Out of the spotlight through most of 2019 because of a season-ending elbow injury, Ben Roethlisberger caused a stir on social media when he posted a picture of himself that showed off a bushy, lumberjack beard. The veteran quarterback vowed he wouldn't shave until he could throw an NFL-caliber pass. Despite some wisecracks about his appearance, Roethlisberger maintained he was still in football shape. "I guess it's my beard that makes me look heavier," he told the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. "I must have five pounds in that, I know. But I'm not overweight."

NO REGRETS Colbert had no problem sitting out the first round of this year's draft because the player they acquired for their top pick, S Minkah Fitzpatrick, lived up to every bit of the expectations Pittsburgh had for him. "Under the kind of circumstances, the uncertainty of the player you might be taking and not having all the information, I'm a lot more comfortable knowing we got an All-Pro player with that pick," Colbert told reporters in April.

BROTHERLY LOVE X2 The Steelers now have two sets of brothers on the roster after their March signing of fullback Derek Watt, whose younger brother T.J. is Pittsburgh's standout linebacker. The Watts join the Edmunds brothers, Terrell and Trey, who have been together in Pittsburgh since 2018. Derek Watt joined the Steelers after four seasons with the Chargers and is set to fill the void left by Roosevelt Nix, who is now with Indianapolis. The pairing of Derek and T.J. left their older brother, All-Pro pass rusher and fellow commercial star J.J. Watt, envious. "J.J., he's very happy for us because we get this opportunity," Derek Watt told ESPN. "He's always said that he's envious of T.J. and I; we've had the chance to play together in high school, college and now the NFL. He knows how special that really is. … He's extremely happy for us. He's jealous of the fact that we get to play together."

Bruce Schwartzman

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



NUMBERS TO KNOW

30.5

The Steelers finished with the highest pressure rate in the NFL per Sportradar data, getting to the quarterback on 30.5 percent of opponent dropbacks.

28

The Steelers failed to score 28 points in any game for the first time since the 1971 season.

4.5

Mason Rudolph and Devlin Hodges tied for the lowest average completion distance in the NFL (4.5 yards), per NFL Next Gen Stats.

Houston TEXANS

AFC South Forecast: 3

THE ORGANIZATION

Co-Founder/Senior Chair: Janice McNair
Chairman/CEO: D. Cal McNair
President: Jamey Rootes
General Manager: Bill O'Brien
Stadium: NRG Stadium (72,220)
Surface: Artificial Turf
Website: www.houstontexans.com
Tickets: 832-667-2002
Training Camp: Houston Texans Training Facility (Houston, Texas)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Bill O'Brien
Record With Team: 52-44
Career Record: 52-44
Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks: Tim Kelly
Associate Head Coach: Romeo Crennel
Defensive Coordinator/Defensive Line: Anthony Weaver
Special Teams Coordinator: Brad Seely
Offensive Consultant: Carl Smith
Running Backs: Danny Barrett
Wide Receivers: John Perry
Tight Ends: Will Lawing
Offensive Line: Mike Devlin
Outside Linebackers: Chris Rumph
Inside Linebackers: Bobby King
Secondary: D'Anton Lynn

The Texans won the AFC South for the fourth time in five years and defeated Buffalo in the wild card round of the playoffs, but they spent the offseason getting ridiculed by fans and media.

Chairman/CEO Cal McNair fired general manager Brian Gaine in June and gave head coach Bill O'Brien control of personnel. O'Brien was the primary target of the venom after blowing a 24-point lead at Kansas City in the divisional round thanks to some questionable decisions. McNair responded by promoting O'Brien to general manager. That controversy was still raging when O'Brien made the most criticized trade in the history of Houston sports, sending All-Pro receiver DeAndre Hopkins to Arizona for running back David Johnson, a second-round draft choice this year that was used on defensive tackle Ross Blacklock and an exchange of fourth-round picks. O'Brien made other moves like trading for receiver Brandin Cooks and signing receiver Randall Cobb.

Led by quarterback Deshaun Watson, the Texans have enough talent to win another division crown. If they do, the question is: Will they be good enough to advance beyond the divisional round for the first time in team history?

OFFENSE O'Brien is handing play-calling duties to offensive coordinator Tim Kelly. Kelly has been with O'Brien since serving as a grad assistant under O'Brien at Penn State.

The best thing the Texans did last year was to improve an offensive line that should be better because of the stability factor. Last year's draft picks, right tackle Tytus Howard and left guard Max Scharping, both earned starting jobs and played well. Once O'Brien was placed in charge of personnel, he acquired left tackle Laremy Tunsil and receiver Kenny Stills from Miami for two first-round draft choices and a second-round selection.

In March, O'Brien got rid of Hopkins, who was good for at least 100 catches and 1,000 yards every season. Taking away Watson's go-to receiver could set the offense back even with the additions. Even though Watson handled things well publicly and on social media, friends say he was infuriated with the trade. No one player will replace Hopkins.

Entering his fourth season, Watson has become an elite quarterback. It helps that his protection has improved. Tunsil signed a three-year extension worth $22 million per year. — $4 million per year more than any other offensive tackle. He helped Watson get sacked 18 fewer times in 2019. Watson created some of those sacks by holding the ball too long. He's accounted for 64 touchdowns the last two seasons, including 52 passing, and has thrown 21 interceptions.

Watson still has a lot of weapons, including big-time speed at receiver. Will Fuller V, Brandin Cooks and Kenny Stills all ran in the 4.3s at their combines. Watson has never had that kind of downfield speed to work with except when Fuller has been healthy. Fuller missed 14 games the last two years, including five last season. With Fuller in the lineup, the Texans averaged six more points per game. O'Brien needs Cooks to stay healthy. After four consecutive seasons with more than 1,000 yards, Cooks caught a career-low 42 passes in his last season with the Rams. He had concussion issues but missed only two games. When he's on the field, he gives Watson blazing outside speed on both sides.

Cobb will play in the slot. In his one season at Dallas, he caught 55 passes for 828 yards. Expect Cobb to work the middle of the field.

Tight ends Darren Fells and Jordan Akins combined for 70 catches, 759 yards and nine TDs.

2020 SCHEDULE			2019 NFL RANKINGS				
Date	Opponent	Time	2019 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 10	at Kansas City (Thu.)	8:20	12-4	379.2 (6)	349.6 (17)	28.2 (5)	19.2 (7)
Sept. 20	Baltimore	4:25	14-2	407.6 (2)	300.6 (4)	33.2 (1)	17.6 (3)
Sept. 27	at Pittsburgh	1:00	8-8	276.8 (30)	304.1 (5)	18.1 (27)	18.9 (t5)
Oct. 4	Minnesota	1:00	10-6	353.5 (16)	341.6 (14)	25.4 (8)	18.9 (t5)
Oct. 11	Jacksonville	1:00	6-10	341.8 (20)	375.4 (24)	18.8 (26)	24.8 (21)
Oct. 18	at Tennessee	1:00	9-7	362.8 (12)	359.5 (21)	25.1 (10)	20.7 (12)
Oct. 25	Green Bay	1:00	13-3	345.5 (18)	352.6 (18)	23.5 (15)	19.6 (9)
BYE							
Nov. 8	at Jacksonville	1:00	6-10	341.8 (20)	375.4 (24)	18.8 (26)	24.8 (21)
Nov. 15	at Cleveland	1:00	6-10	340.9 (22)	361.6 (22)	20.9 (22)	24.6 (20)
Nov. 22	New England	1:00	12-4	354.0 (15)	275.9 (1)	26.2 (7)	14.1 (1)
Nov. 26	at Detroit (Thu.)	12:30	3-12-1	346.8 (17)	400.4 (31)	21.3 (t18)	26.4 (26)
Dec. 6	Indianapolis	1:00	7-9	327.4 (25)	346.8 (16)	22.6 (t16)	23.3 (18)
Dec. 13	at Chicago	1:00	8-8	296.8 (29)	324.1 (8)	17.5 (29)	18.6 (4)
Dec. 19/20	at Indianapolis	TBD	7-9	327.4 (25)	346.8 (16)	22.6 (t16)	23.3 (18)
Dec. 27	Cincinnati	1:00	2-14	323.1 (26)	393.7 (29)	17.4 (30)	26.2 (25)
Jan. 3	Tennessee	1:00	9-7	362.8 (12)	359.5 (21)	25.1 (10)	20.7 (12)

AP Photo/Eric Christian Smith

J.J. Watt

DEFENSIVE LINE

2019 RESULTS (10-6)

Sept.	9	at New Orleans	L	28-30
Sept.	15	Jacksonville	W	13-12
Sept.	22	at L.A. Chargers	W	27-20
Sept.	29	Carolina	L	10-16
Oct.	6	Atlanta	W	53-32
Oct.	13	at Kansas City	W	31-24
Oct.	20	at Indianapolis	L	23-30
Oct.	27	Oakland	W	27-24
Nov.	3	at Jacksonville	W	26-3
Nov.	17	at Baltimore	L	7-41
Nov.	21	Indianapolis	W	20-17
Dec.	1	New England	W	28-22
Dec.	8	Denver	L	24-38
Dec.	15	at Tennessee	W	24-21
Dec.	21	at Tampa Bay	W	23-20
Dec.	29	Tennessee	L	14-35
POSTSEASON				
Jan.	4	Buffalo (ot)	W	22-19
Jan.	12	at Kansas City	L	31-51

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Deshaun Watson	495	333	3,852	26	12

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Carlos Hyde	245	1,070	4.4	6
Deshaun Watson	82	413	5.0	7
Duke Johnson	83	410	4.9	2

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
DeAndre Hopkins	104	1,165	11.2	7
Will Fuller V	49	670	13.7	3
Kenny Stills	40	561	14.0	4
Jordan Akins	36	418	11.6	2
Duke Johnson	44	410	9.3	3
Darren Fells	34	341	10.0	7

KICKING: Ka'imi Fairbairn, 20-25 FGs, 40-45 PAT, 100 points

TACKLES: Zach Cunningham, 142; Benardrick McKinney, 101

SACKS: Whitney Mercilus, 7.5; J.J. Watt, 4

INTERCEPTIONS: Tashaun Gipson, 3; four tied with 2

2019 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	362.0	13	6
Rushing	125.6	9	5
Passing	236.4	15	6
Scoring	23.6	14	5
Third Down %	43.0	8	5
Punt Returns	9.7	5	4
Kick Returns	22.0	19	10

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	388.3	28	15
Rushing	121.1	25	11
Passing	267.2	29	16
Scoring	24.1	19	11
Interceptions	12	T17	T10
Sacks	31	T26	T13
Turnover Differential	0	T15	9

At 6'7", Fells is a formidable red zone target. Akins is more of an H-back who gets the ball on short and intermediate routes.

The running game will again rely on a one-two punch, but it'll be David Johnson rather than Carlos Hyde rotating with Duke Johnson. David Johnson was demoted at Arizona last season, but O'Brien thinks that he'll fit well in the Texans running game. Both Johnsons are plus receivers.

Deshaun Watson

Matt Hernandez

DEFENSE A unit that finished 28th, including 25th against the run and 29th against the pass, needs a lot of improvement. The defense lost one important player, nose tackle D.J. Reader (Cincinnati). Brandon Dunn, who started 10 games on the nose in 2018 and came off the bench last season, replaces him. Dunn plays between ends J.J. Watt and Angelo Blackson.

Watt, who turned 31 in March, played only eight games last season because of a torn pectoral muscle and finished with four sacks. More than anything, the defense needs for Watt to stay healthy, as he did in 2018 when he had 16 sacks. Improving the pass rush is vital after the Texans recorded only 31 sacks last season, down from 43 in 2018. With no consistent pressure, the defense got bullied. Outside linebacker Whitney Mercilus, who turns 30 in July, is the second-best pass rusher. After leading the team with 7.5 sacks, he got a new contract. The Texans have a group of young outside rushers they're counting heavily on — end Charles Omenihu and outside linebackers Jacob Martin and Duke Ejiofor (the latter missed all of 2019 with a torn Achilles). They also signed tackle Tim Jernigan to be part of the rotation up front. They hope Ross Blacklock, the top draft choice, will play end in the three-man front and slide inside in passing situations.

The strength of the defense is the linebackers, where all four starters return — Mercilus and Brennan Scarlett outside and Benardrick McKinney and Zach Cunningham inside. Cunningham, who drops into coverage against tight ends and backs, is coming off his best season. McKinney excels against the run. They have depth inside with veteran Dylan Cole, who has trouble staying healthy.

After adding four new cornerbacks last season in veterans Bradley Roby, Gareon Conley, Vernon Hargreaves III and second-round pick Lonnie Johnson Jr., that position didn't get a lot of attention other than fourth-round pick John Reid, who'll cover inside receivers. O'Brien elected not to bring back starting safety Tashaun Gipson and backup Jahleel Addae, leaving Justin Reid as the only safety guaranteed a starting job. In free agency, the Texans signed three safeties — Eric Murray, Jaylen Watkins and Michael Thomas — who've spent most of their careers as backups. If the DBs don't improve the coverage, they're destined to get bombarded again. It will help, of course, if the pass rush improves.

SPECIALISTS Special teams improved for a second consecutive season under coordinator Brad Seely. Coverage teams were exceptional, and they should be even better with the addition of Thomas, one of the league's best special teams aces.

After leading the NFL in scoring in 2018 with 150 points, kicker Ka'imi Fairbairn totaled 100 last season. He overcame a slow start with punter Brian Anger as his new holder and missed only two field goals inside the 50. Signed as a free agent early in the season, Anger was outstanding with a 46.5-yard gross and a 44.5-yard net, tying him for best in the league. The Texans allowed a league-best 3.4 yards on punt returns. Receiver DeAndre Carter is nothing special on returns, averaging 22.0 yards on kickoffs and 9.7 on punts.

FINAL ANALYSIS Trading Hopkins could backfire on O'Brien if the Texans fail to make the playoffs for the third time in his seven seasons. O'Brien has two coordinators calling plays for the first time, receivers with injury issues and a new running back who missed three games at Arizona last season and started only nine. The defense was awful for much of last season and must elevate the pass rush or the secondary will get toasted again. That being said, as long as the Texans have a healthy Watson and don't have to ask him to do too much, they should be competitive and capable of winning the division again.

Scouting the Texans

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP HOUSTON "Head coach Bill O'Brien took over as the GM last year and is continuously making questionable decisions, such as trading two years of top picks for LT Laremy Tunsil and the recent blockbuster trade that sent All-Pro DeAndre Hopkins, arguably the best WR in the NFL, to Arizona for a second-round draft pick and RB David Johnson, who's coming off a disappointing season. ... They still have speedster WRs Kenny Stills and Will Fuller V but signed veteran slot WR Randall Cobb and traded for WR Brandin Cooks. ... They have a quality TE unit that features Jordan Akins and Darren Fells. ... Up front, they drafted two reliable starters in OG Max Scharping and RT Tytus Howard last year, but they need to keep bolstering their depth. ... DT D.J. Reader left in free agency and star DE J.J. Watt made a miraculous recovery for the playoffs, but they needed a contingency plan and drafted DL Ross Blacklock in the second round. Edge Whitney Mercilus has put together an outstanding career, and look for edge Jacob Martin to play a bigger role this season. Athletic ILB Zach Cunningham played his best football and led the team in tackles, but ILB Benardrick McKinney is the leader of this defense. ... Playmaking safety Justin Reid is a rising star, and they re-signed their best CB, Bradley Roby, but the other CB and safety spots are the biggest question marks on this roster. ... They will compete for the playoffs again because of QB Deshaun Watson's playmaking ability and this feisty defense, but I don't see this team elevating to the Super Bowl this season."

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
WR	Brandin Cooks	L.A. Rams
WR	Randall Cobb	Dallas
RB	David Johnson	Arizona
S	Eric Murray	Cleveland
OT	Brent Qvale	N.Y. Jets
CB/S	Jaylen Watkins	L.A. Chargers

KEY LOSSES −

POS.	PLAYER	2020 TEAM
S	Jahleel Addae	Free Agent
OT	Chris Clark	Free Agent
S	Tashaun Gipson	Chicago
WR	DeAndre Hopkins	Arizona
RB	Carlos Hyde	Seattle
RB	Taiwan Jones	Buffalo
CB	Johnathan Joseph	Tennessee
OLB	Barkevious Mingo	Chicago
NT	D.J. Reader	Cincinnati

Offseason Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR	13	Brandin Cooks	12	Kenny Stills
WR	18	Randall Cobb	14	DeAndre Carter
WR	15	Will Fuller V	82	Isaiah Coulter (R)
LT	78	Laremy Tunsil	63	Roderick Johnson
LG	74	Max Scharping	64	Senio Kelemete
C	66	Nick Martin	65	Greg Mancz
RG	73	Zach Fulton	64	Senio Kelemete
RT	71	Tytus Howard	67	Charlie Heck (R)
TE	87	Darren Fells	88	Jordan Akins
QB	4	Deshaun Watson	2	AJ McCarron
RB	31	David Johnson	25	Duke Johnson

DEFENSE

DE	99	J.J. Watt	94	Charles Omenihu
NT	92	Brandon Dunn		Tim Jernigan
DE	97	Angelo Blackson	90	Ross Blacklock (R)
OLB	59	Whitney Mercilus	54	Jacob Martin
ILB	55	Benardrick McKinney	58	Peter Kalambayi
ILB	41	Zach Cunningham	51	Dylan Cole
OLB	57	Brennan Scarlett	52	Jonathan Greenard (R)
CB	22	Gareon Conley	32	Lonnie Johnson Jr.
CB	21	Bradley Roby	34	John Reid (R)
SS	23	Eric Murray	33	A.J. Moore Jr.
FS	20	Justin Reid	28	Michael Thomas

SPECIALISTS

K	7	Ka'imi Fairbairn	KR	14	DeAndre Carter
P	9	Bryan Anger	PR	14	DeAndre Carter

2020 VETERAN TEXANS ROSTER

	QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
2	McCarron, AJ	QB	6-3	215	6	Alabama	FA-LV-19	D5-Cin-14
3	McGough, Alex	QB	6-3	214	1	FIU	FA-19	D7-Sea-18
4	Watson, Deshaun	QB	6-2	215	3	Clemson	D1-17	D1-Hou-17
	RUNNING BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
44	Gillaspia, Cullen	FB	6-2	235	1	Texas A&M	D7-19	D7-Hou-19
31	Higdon Jr., Karan	RB	5-10	202	1	Michigan	FA-19	FA-Hou-19
38	Howell, Buddy	RB	6-1	218	2	Florida Atlantic	W-Mia-18	FA-Mia-18
31	Johnson, David	RB	6-1	224	5	Northern Iowa	T-Ari-20	D3-Ari-15
25	Johnson, Duke	RB	5-9	210	5	Miami	T-Cle-19	D3a-Cle-15
	RECEIVERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
88	Akins, Jordan	TE	6-4	243	2	UCF	D3c-18	D3c-Hou-18
14	Carter, DeAndre	WR	5-8	190	2	Sacramento State	W-Phi-18	FA-Bal-15
18	Cobb, Randall	WR	5-10	195	9	Kentucky	FA-Dal-20	D2-GB-11
13	Cooks, Brandin	WR	5-10	183	6	Oregon State	T-LAR-20	D1-NO-14
16	Coutee, Keke	WR	5-11	187	2	Texas Tech	D4-18	D4-Hou-18
87	Fells, Darren	TE	6-7	270	6	California-Irvine	FA-Cle-19	FA-Sea-13
15	Fuller V, Will	WR	6-0	184	4	Notre Dame	D1-16	D1-Hou-16
13	Hansen, Chad	WR	6-2	202	2	California	W-NO-19	D4-NYJ-17
11	Mitchell Jr., Steven	WR	5-10	186	1	USC	FA-18	FA-LAR-18
12	Stills, Kenny	WR	6-1	202	7	Oklahoma	T-Mia-19	D5-NO-13
83	Thomas, Jordan	TE	6-5	277	2	Mississippi State	D6b-18	D6b-Hou-18
81	Warring, Kahale	TE	6-5	252	1	San Diego State	D3-19	D3-Hou-19
19	Whitney, Isaac	WR	6-2	204	1	USC	FA-18	FA-LV-17
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
73	Fulton, Zach	C/G	6-5	321	6	Tennessee	FA-KC-18	D6a-KC-14
71	Howard, Tytus	G/T	6-5	322	1	Alabama State	D1-19	D1-Hou-19
63	Johnson, Roderick	T	6-6	306	3	Florida State	W-Cle-18	D5-Cle-17
64	Kelemete, Senio	G	6-3	301	7	Washington	FA-NO-18	D5-Ari-12
72	Leonard, Rick	T	6-7	311	1	Florida State	FA-18	D4-NO-18
65	Mancz, Greg	C/G	6-4	302	5	Toledo	FA-15	FA-Hou-15
66	Martin, Nick	C	6-4	295	4	Notre Dame	D2-16	D2-Hou-16
68	Murphy, Kyle	T	6-6	305	4	Stanford	FA-19	D6-GB-16
75	Nkansah, Elijah	T	6-5	315	1	Toledo	FA-19	FA-Ten-18
76	Qvale, Brent	G/T	6-7	315	5	Nebraska	FA-NYJ-20	FA-NYJ-14
74	Scharping, Max	G/T	6-6	327	1	Northern Illinois	D2b-19	D2b-Hou-19
79	Steinmetz, David	T	6-8	321	1	Purdue	FA-18	FA-Mia-18
78	Tunsil, Laremy	T	6-5	313	4	Ole Miss	T-Mia-19	D1-Mia-16
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
97	Blackson, Angelo	DE	6-4	319	5	Auburn	FA-17	D4-Ten-15
92	Dunn, Brandon	NT	6-2	310	4	Louisville	FA-15	FA-Chi-14
	Jernigan, Tim	DT	6-2	295	6	Florida State	FA-Phi-20	D2-Bal-14
94	Omenihu, Charles	DE	6-5	280	1	Texas	D5-19	D5-Hou-19
96	Savage-Lewis, Ira	DE	6-3	290	1	Baylor	FA-19	FA-Hou-19
95	Vanderdoes, Eddie	NT	6-3	315	3	UCLA	FA-19	D3-LV-17
91	Watkins, Carlos	DE	6-3	297	3	Clemson	D4b-17	D4b-Hou-17
99	Watt, J.J.	DE	6-5	288	9	Wisconsin	D1-11	D1-Hou-11
	LINEBACKERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
50	Adams, Tyrell	ILB	6-2	230	4	West Georgia	FA-18	FA-Sea-15
49	Bellamy, Davin	OLB	6-5	259	1	Georgia	FA-20	FA-Hou-18
51	Cole, Dylan	ILB	6-0	237	3	Missouri State	FA-17	FA-Hou-17
41	Cunningham, Zach	ILB	6-3	238	3	Vanderbilt	D2-17	D2-Hou-17
53	Ejiofor, Duke	OLB	6-4	255	2	Wake Forest	D6a-18	D6a-Hou-18
48	Hall, Nate	ILB	6-2	235	1	Northwestern	FA-19	FA-Dal-19
58	Kalambayi, Peter	ILB	6-3	254	2	Stanford	D6c-18	D6c-Hou-18
42	Landrum, Chris	OLB	6-2	245	4	Jacksonville State	FA-18	FA-LAC-16
54	Martin, Jacob	OLB	6-2	242	2	Temple	T-Sea-19	D6-Sea-18
55	McKinney, Benardrick	ILB	6-4	257	5	Mississippi State	D2-15	D2-Hou-15
59	Mercilus, Whitney	OLB	6-4	258	8	Illinois	D1-12	D1-Hou-12
57	Scarlett, Brennan	OLB	6-4	263	4	Stanford	FA-16	FA-Hou-16
	DEFENSIVE BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
30	Armstrong, Cornell	CB	6-0	185	2	Southern Miss	FA-19	D6-Mia-18
43	Chesley, Anthony	CB	6-0	190	1	Coastal Carolina	FA-19	FA-Cin-19
22	Conley, Gareon	CB	6-0	190	3	Ohio State	T-LV-19	D1-LV-17
35	Crossen, Keion	CB	5-10	185	2	Western Carolina	T-NE-19	D7b-NE-18
32	Johnson Jr., Lonnie	CB	6-2	213	1	Kentucky	D2a-19	D2a-Hou-19
42	Luani, Shalom	S	6-0	202	3	Washington State	FA-19	D7-LV-17
33	Moore Jr., A.J.	S	5-11	200	2	Ole Miss	W-NE-18	FA-NE-18
23	Murray, Eric	S	5-11	199	4	Minnesota	FA-Cle-20	D4b-KC-16
36	Owens, Jonathan	S	5-11	210	2	Missouri Western	FA-19	FA-Ari-18
20	Reid, Justin	S	6-1	203	2	Stanford	D3a-18	D3a-Hou-18
21	Roby, Bradley	CB	5-11	194	6	Ohio State	FA-Den-19	D1-Den-14
28	Thomas, Michael	S	5-10	195	6	Stanford	FA-NYG-20	FA-SF-12
27	Watkins, Jaylen	S	5-11	194	5	Florida	FA-LAC-20	D4-Phi-14
	SPECIALISTS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
9	Anger, Bryan	P	6-3	205	8	California	FA-19	D3-Jac-12
7	Fairbairn, Ka'imi	K	6-0	183	4	UCLA	FA-16	FA-Hou-16
45	Kukwa, Anthony	LS	6-3	221	1	Lake Erie	FA-20	FA-LV-17
46	Weeks, Jon	LS	5-10	242	10	Baylor	FA-10	FA-Hou-10

Texans *in the Draft* | Grade: B-

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
2.	**Ross Blacklock**	**DT**	**6-3**	**290**	**TCU**
3.	Jonathan Greenard	OLB	6-4	263	Florida
4.	Charlie Heck	OT	6-8	315	North Carolina
4.	John Reid	CB	5-10	181	Penn State
5.	Isaiah Coulter	WR	6-3	190	Rhode Island

Without a first-round pick because of last year's trade with Miami for offensive tackle Laremy Tunsil, Bill O'Brien's primary objective was to beef up the pass rush. He selected defensive tackle Ross Blacklock for an inside rush and outside linebacker Jonathan Greenard for an outside rush. Blacklock is quick off the ball and is expected to penetrate and push the pocket. Charlie Heck, the son of Chiefs offensive line coach Andy Heck, should be the swing tackle behind Tunsil and Tytus Howard. Cornerback John Reid should contribute as a rookie covering inside receivers. The coaches expect him to excel on special teams. Receiver Isaiah Coulter has good size and speed but will have to adjust to NFL coverage after playing at Rhode Island. His rookie year will probably be a learning experience.

Outside the Huddle

PROMOTION Even though Bill O'Brien had been the de factor general manager since June 2019 when Brian Gaine was fired, it wasn't official until March, when chairman/CEO Cal McNair gave him the title. A lot of head coaches have control of personnel, as O'Brien does, but he's the only one with the title of head coach/general manager.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN If receiver DeAndre Hopkins had not demanded an extension with three years left on his contract, he'd still be with the Texans. Hopkins was going to make a base salary of $12.5 million and wanted a new deal in the Julio Jones neighborhood ($22 million). O'Brien balked at redoing Hopkins' contract with three years left. He and Hopkins had differences, but, as the play-caller, O'Brien made sure that Hopkins got enough balls to maintain his status as an All-Pro receiver.

BUSY OFFSEASON FOR WATT Shortly after hosting "Saturday Night Live," defensive end J.J. Watt married his longtime girlfriend, soccer star Kealia Ohai, on Feb. 15. The Watts were married in the Bahamas. They met while Ohai played for the Houston Dash. She was traded to the Chicago Red Stars before last season.

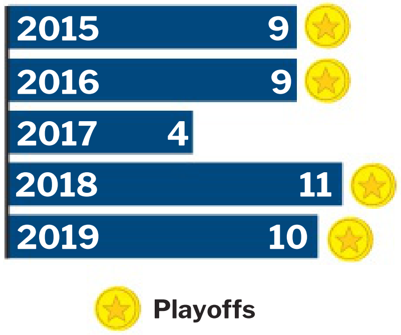
RUNNING LESS BUT SCORING MORE Quarterback Deshaun Watson rushed for a career-high seven touchdowns in 2019, giving him 12 in his last two seasons. The coaches realize Watson is going to run when he sees an opening, especially when the Texans are inside the 10-yard line. In the last two seasons, he's carried 181 times for 964 yards (5.3 average) to go with his 12 TDs.

DUAL THREAT One reason O'Brien wanted running back David Johnson included in the controversial trade for receiver DeAndre Hopkins is the way he can be incorporated into the passing game so effortlessly. At Arizona, Johnson caught 208 passes for 2,219 yards and 15 touchdowns. Dating back to 2000, of the NFL backs with at least 65 catches, Johnson's 10.7-yard average per catch leads the league. Not counting 2017 when he suffered a season-ending wrist injury in the first game, Johnson has averaged 12 touchdowns per year since 2015. The only Texan with more over a four-year span in which he was healthy was Arian Foster, who averaged 15.

FELLS SETS TEAM RECORD Last year, the Texans signed tight end Darren Fells as a 33-year-old free agent. When training camp began, he was a long shot to make the team. Not only did he make the team, but Fells (6'7", 270) also became Deshaun Watson's favorite red zone target. Fells caught seven TDs, a team record for a tight end, breaking by one the record set by Owen Daniels. The Texans rewarded Fells with a new contract.

TOO PRICEY The Hopkins trade got more attention, but losing nose tackle D.J. Reader to Cincinnati was a blow to the defense. Reader, a popular team leader liked and respected by everyone, was offered $10 million a year. He signed with the Bengals for $13.25 million per year on a four-year, $53 million deal. The Texans weren't going to pay him that much because he was on the field for 60 percent of the plays and was never an effective pass rusher.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



NUMBERS TO KNOW

18.1

The Texans finished with the lowest pressure rate of any non-Dolphins team per Sportradar data, getting to the quarterback on only 18.1 percent of opponent dropbacks.

3.4

Opponents averaged a league-low 3.4 yards per punt return against the Texans.

71.4

Texans opponents scored a touchdown on a league-high 71.4 percent of their red zone possessions.

Jay Biggerstaff

Indianapolis
COLTS

AFC South Forecast: 2

THE ORGANIZATION

Owner/CEO: James Irsay
General Manager: Chris Ballard
Assistant General Manager: Ed Dodds
Director of Pro Personnel: Kevin Rogers
Stadium: Lucas Oil Stadium (67,000)
Surface: Artificial Turf
Website: www.colts.com
Tickets: 317-297-7000
Training Camp: Grand Park Sports Campus (Westfield, Ind.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Frank Reich
Record With Team: 17-15
Career Record: 17-15
Offensive Coordinator: Nick Sirianni
Defensive Coordinator: Matt Eberflus
Special Teams Coordinator: Bubba Ventrone
Quarterbacks: Marcus Brady
Running Backs: Tom Rathman
Wide Receivers: Mike Groh
Tight Ends: Jason Michael
Offensive Line: Chris Strausser
Defensive Line: Brian Baker
Linebackers: Dave Borgonzi
Defensive Backs/Cornerbacks: Jonathan Gannon
Defensive Backs/Safeties: Alan Williams

A year removed from the unexpected disaster of quarterback Andrew Luck's sudden retirement, the Indianapolis Colts intend to make a serious run at an AFC South title with 38-year-old passer Philip Rivers, an infusion of young offensive playmakers and an upgraded defense including acquired All-Pro defensive tackle DeForest Buckner.

Although 2019's slide to 7–9 without Luck shouldn't have been a surprise, general manager Chris Ballard points to a 5–6 record in one-score games and key injuries to offensive weapons as reasons for falling short of the playoffs for the fourth time in five years. The Colts started 5–2 before falling apart.

The disappointment didn't sit well with Ballard or owner Jim Irsay, hence a busy and expensive offseason in free agency as well as the NFL Draft. The franchise wants to win now and can no longer be labeled as rebuilding.

OFFENSE Rivers was sought after because of his past relationship with Colts third-year head coach Frank Reich. The 17th-year pro flourished with Reich and Colts offensive coordinator Nick Sirianni when the two were Chargers assistant coaches. That means the quarterback, upon agreeing to terms on a one-year, $25 million contract, already knew about 80 percent of the Colts playbook. How much Rivers has left is a lingering question. But Ballard has gone to great lengths to put pieces around him.

A series of offseason moves included re-signing left tackle Anthony Castonzo for two years. Whereas Rivers struggled with 20 interceptions behind a porous Chargers offensive line, he joins a team that didn't have a missed start on its O-line and ranked seventh in rushing yards. Ballard used his first two draft choices in the second round on impact players, USC wide receiver Michael Pittman Jr. and Wisconsin workhorse running back Jonathan Taylor. The physically tough Pittman gives the Colts their best size at the position since the departure of Reggie Wayne after the 2014 season. Taylor's rugged, downhill style also fits with a backfield that was built on speed with running back Marlon Mack. Now, the Colts have a 1-2 rushing punch, with an emphasis on punch. Former Pittsburgh fullback Roosevelt Nix was also added to help create running lanes.

Most of the other offensive positions are set with returnees, which leads to another question: Can important players such as four-time Pro Bowl wide receiver T.Y. Hilton stay healthy? Hilton was sidelined by injuries and played hurt for much of the season. Since his 2012 arrival, the Colts are 1–9 when Hilton doesn't play. The lesson reinforced by Luck's departure is that a team can't be built around one player. To overcome that requires more talented playmakers so that the Colts aren't relying so much on one guy. Nobody encountered more of a hard-luck 2019 than rookie wide receiver Parris Campbell, a promising second-round pick who showed flashes but eventually landed on injured reserve. The scars from his NFL debut were from surgeries to repair a sports hernia, fractured hand and broken foot. Campbell is exceptionally fast and versatile, so a breakthrough year could be in the offing.

DEFENSE The last game Buckner played for the 49ers was Super Bowl LIV, where he was a force with 1.5 sacks in a losing effort vs. the Kansas City Chiefs. San Francisco couldn't afford to keep him, and Ballard didn't hesitate to offer a 2020 first-round draft choice, 13th overall, to secure a dominant tackle who can get after quarterbacks while also

2020 SCHEDULE			2019 NFL RANKINGS				
Date	Opponent	Time	2019 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 13	at Jacksonville	1:00	6-10	341.8 (20)	375.4 (24)	18.8 (26)	24.8 (21)
Sept. 20	Minnesota	1:00	10-6	353.5 (16)	341.6 (14)	25.4 (8)	18.9 (t5)
Sept. 27	N.Y. Jets	4:05	7-9	273.0 (32)	323.1 (7)	17.2 (31)	22.4 (16)
Oct. 4	at Chicago	1:00	8-8	296.8 (29)	324.1 (8)	17.5 (29)	18.6 (4)
Oct. 11	at Cleveland	4:25	6-10	340.9 (22)	361.6 (22)	20.9 (22)	24.6 (20)
Oct. 18	Cincinnati	1:00	2-14	323.1 (26)	393.7 (29)	17.4 (30)	26.2 (25)
BYE							
Nov. 1	at Detroit	1:00	3-12-1	346.8 (17)	400.4 (31)	21.3 (t18)	26.4 (26)
Nov. 8	Baltimore	1:00	14-2	407.6 (2)	300.6 (4)	33.2 (1)	17.6 (3)
Nov. 12	at Tennessee (Thu.)	8:20	9-7	362.8 (12)	359.5 (21)	25.1 (10)	20.7 (12)
Nov. 22	Green Bay	1:00	13-3	345.5 (18)	352.6 (18)	23.5 (15)	19.6 (9)
Nov. 29	Tennessee	1:00	9-7	362.8 (12)	359.5 (21)	25.1 (10)	20.7 (12)
Dec. 6	at Houston	1:00	10-6	362.0 (13)	388.3 (28)	23.6 (14)	24.1 (19)
Dec. 13	at Las Vegas	4:05	7-9	363.7 (11)	354.8 (19)	19.6 (24)	26.2 (24)
Dec.19/20	Houston	TBD	10-6	362.0 (13)	388.3 (28)	23.6 (14)	24.1 (19)
Dec. 27	at Pittsburgh	1:00	8-8	276.8 (30)	304.1 (5)	18.1 (27)	18.9 (t5)
Jan. 3	Jacksonville	1:00	6-10	341.8 (20)	375.4 (24)	18.8 (26)	24.8 (21)

T.Y. Hilton

WIDE RECEIVER

2019 RESULTS (7-9)

Sept. 8	at L.A. Chargers (ot)	L	24-30
Sept. 15	at Tennessee	W	19-17
Sept. 22	Atlanta	W	27-24
Sept. 29	Oakland	L	24-31
Oct. 6	at Kansas City	W	19-13
Oct. 20	Houston	W	30-23
Oct. 27	Denver	W	15-13
Nov. 3	at Pittsburgh	L	24-26
Nov. 10	Miami	L	12-16
Nov. 17	Jacksonville	W	33-13
Nov. 21	at Houston	L	17-20
Dec. 1	Tennessee	L	17-31
Dec. 8	at Tampa Bay	L	35-38
Dec. 16	at New Orleans	L	7-34
Dec. 22	Carolina	W	38-6
Dec. 29	at Jacksonville	L	20-38

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Jacoby Brissett	447	272	2,942	18	6
Brian Hoyer	65	35	372	4	4

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Marlon Mack	247	1,091	4.4	8
Jordan Wilkins	51	307	6.0	2
Jonathan Williams	49	235	4.8	1
Jacoby Brissett	56	228	4.1	4

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Zach Pascal	41	607	14.8	5
T.Y. Hilton	45	501	11.1	5
Jack Doyle	43	448	10.4	4
Eric Ebron	31	375	12.1	3
Nyheim Hines	44	320	7.3	0

KICKING: Adam Vinatieri, 17-25 FGs, 22-28 PAT, 73 points; Chase McLaughlin, 5-6 FGs, 11-11 PAT, 26 points

TACKLES: Anthony Walker, 124; Darius Leonard, 121

SACKS: Justin Houston, 11.0; Darius Leonard, 5.0

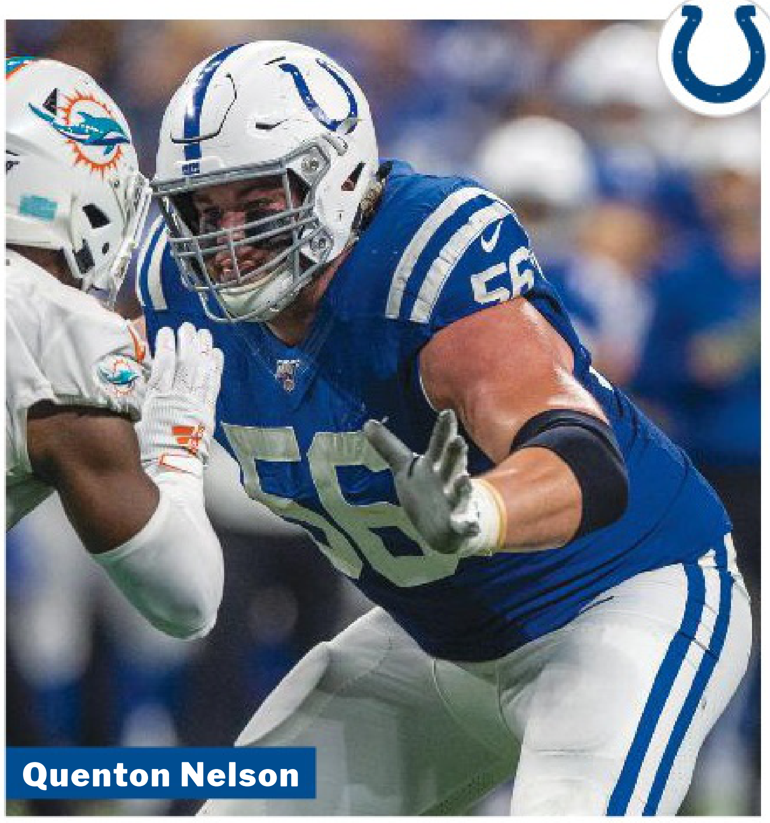
INTERCEPTIONS: Darius Leonard, 5; Pierre Desir, 3

2019 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	327.4	25	11
Rushing	133.1	7	3
Passing	194.2	30	15
Scoring	22.6	T16	6
Third Down %	41.5	12	6
Punt Returns	17.4	1	1
Kick Returns	22.8	T12	7

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	346.8	16	8
Rushing	97.9	7	4
Passing	248.9	23	12
Scoring	23.3	18	10
Interceptions	15	7	4
Sacks	41	T15	7
Turnover Differential	+2	12	7

Hilton: AP Photo/AJ Mast; Nelson: Peter Brouillet


Quenton Nelson

being solid against the run. He joins a defense led by two-time All-Pro linebacker Darius Leonard as well as established pass-rushing end Justin Houston.

Some of the defensive revamping required patchwork, with cornerbacks Xavier Rhodes and T.J. Carrie given one-year deals to prove they are worth another contract. Two years removed from being an All-Pro cover corner in Minnesota, Rhodes' play dropped off in part due to playing hurt, and then the Vikings released him. If he can regain his past form, it will get him paid after 2020, and the Colts secondary will be vastly improved. Second-year cornerback Rock Ya-Sin showed potential as a rookie when he wasn't getting flagged for holding and pass interference. The back line is still a question mark, with inconsistent safety Malik Hooker and second-year pro Khari Willis.

If there's a position up for grabs, it's defensive end. Veteran Jabaal Sheard was allowed to become a free agent, so the Colts will be looking at several players in his spot, including a trio of former second-round picks in Kemoko Turay, Tyquan Lewis and Ben Banogu. Turay was starting to make a name for himself when he suffered a season-ending broken ankle in Week 5. Lewis must show something after two injury-plagued seasons or he'll be gone. Banogu struggled to adjust to the pro game as a rookie with just 2.5 sacks and 11 tackles. Having Buckner inside should take the pressure off the edges as well as the other defensive tackle spot, where seventh-year pro Denico Autry will no longer have to face double teams and should make more plays like two years ago, when he had a career-high nine sacks.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Adam Vinatieri, the NFL's all-time leader in points and field goals, was allowed to hit free agency after enduring the worst season of his legendary career. He had 14 of the team's 15 missed kicks, including six extra points, before ending up on injured reserve after 12 games with a leg injury that required surgery. Rookie Chase McLaughlin filled in well enough to earn a one-year tender. But he'll have to win the job in a kicking competition with undrafted rookie Rodrigo Blankenship, Georgia's all-time leading scorer and the 2019 Lou Groza Award winner as the nation's top college kicker.

Punter Rigoberto Sanchez and long snapper Luke Rhodes return in their reliable capacities. One late-season development bodes well for the return units — running back Nyheim Hines returned two punts for TDs in a Week 16 home rout of Carolina. The Colts looked to upgrade their special teams with a couple of sixth-round draft choices in UMass cornerback/returner Isaiah Rodgers and Michigan linebacker Jordan Glasgow.

FINAL ANALYSIS As much as Ballard tried to fill several obvious holes, the Colts' chances of winning the division and making the playoffs hinge on how well Rivers can play in trying to revive a passing game that went nowhere with now-backup QB Jacoby Brissett. His offensive weapons, which also include Pro Bowl tight end Jack Doyle as well as an established run game, should make the task more achievable. Rivers has put up Hall-of-Fame-worthy numbers with 59,271 career passing yards and 397 TD passes because he reads defenses well and gets rid of the ball quickly. He was named to his eighth Pro Bowl in 2018, so it's not a stretch to suggest he could enjoy a rebirth with the Colts.

The other part of the equation is the young defense, which often failed to protect leads. That's why Buckner's impact could make such a difference. The Colts are still thin in the secondary, so the only way this defense flourishes is if the pass rush is formidable and the run defense is solid. That starts up front.

Put it all together and the Colts are capable of becoming one of the NFL's surprise teams in 2020. It's not time yet to suggest Super Bowl contender, but everybody else in the AFC South lost key players and didn't make significant offseason upgrades. There's no reason why the Colts can't win the division and make a statement that the franchise is trending in the right direction.

2020 VETERAN COLTS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
7	Brissett, Jacoby	QB	6-4	238	4	NC State	T-NE-17	D3b-NE-16
6	Kelly, Chad	QB	6-2	216	2	Ole Miss	FA-19	D7-Den-17
17	Rivers, Philip	QB	6-5	228	16	NC State	FA-LAC-20	D1-NYG-04

RUNNING BACKS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
35	Anderson III, Bruce	RB	5-11	210	1	North Dakota St.	FA-19	FA-TB-19
21	Hines, Nyheim	RB	5-9	196	2	NC State	D4-18	D4-Ind-18
41	Jackson, Darius	RB	6-0	220	4	Eastern Michigan	FA-19	D6-Dal-16
25	Mack, Marlon	RB	6-0	210	3	South Florida	D4-17	D4-Ind-17
33	Nix, Roosevelt	FB	5-11	248	5	Kent State	FA-Pit-20	FA-Atl-14
20	Wilkins, Jordan	RB	6-1	216	2	Ole Miss	D5-18	D5-Ind-18

RECEIVERS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
2	Adams, Rodney	WR	6-1	189	1	South Florida	FA-18	D5-Min-17
81	Alie-Cox, Mo	TE	6-5	267	2	VCU	FA-17	FA-Ind-17
48	Bunting, Ian	TE	6-7	255	1	California	FA-19	FA-Chi-19
80	Burton, Trey	TE	6-2	238	6	Florida	FA-Chi-20	FA-Phi-14
15	Campbell, Parris	WR	6-0	208	1	Ohio State	D2-19	D2-Ind-19
84	Doyle, Jack	TE	6-6	262	7	Western Kentucky	W-Ten-13	FA-Ten-13
16	Dulin, Ashton	WR	6-1	215	1	Malone	FA-19	FA-Ind-19
10	Fountain, Daurice	WR	6-2	210	1	Northern Iowa	D5-18	D5-Ind-18
85	Grimble, Xavier	TE	6-4	261	4	USC	FA-19	FA-NYG-14
9	Henry, Malik	WR	6-0	190	1	West Georgia	FA-19	FA-SF-19
13	Hilton, T.Y.	WR	5-10	183	8	FIU	D3-12	D3-Ind-12
83	Johnson, Marcus	WR	6-1	207	3	Texas	T-Sea-18	FA-Phi-16
47	Lengel, Matt	TE	6-7	265	4	Eastern Kentucky	FA-19	FA-Cin-15
14	Pascal, Zach	WR	6-2	214	2	Old Dominion	W-Ten-18	FA-Was-17
1	Scott, Artavis	WR	5-11	195	1	Clemson	FA-20	FA-LAC-17
43	Travis, Ross	TE	6-6	248	4	Penn State	W-KC-17	FA-KC-15
11	Williams, Chad	WR	6-2	204	3	Grambling State	FA-19	D3-Ari-17

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
74	Castonzo, Anthony	T	6-7	307	9	Boston College	D1-11	D1-Ind-11
62	Clark, Le'Raven	G/T	6-5	311	4	Texas Tech	D3-16	D3-Ind-16
76	Donnal, Andrew	T/G	6-6	305	5	Iowa	FA-19	D4-LAR-15
60	Eldrenkamp, Jake	G	6-5	300	1	Washington	W-NE-19	FA-LAR-17
64	Glowinski, Mark	G	6-4	310	5	West Virginia	W-Sea-17	D4-Sea-15
69	Green, Chaz	T/G	6-5	318	3	Florida	FA-19	D3-Dal-15
75	Hitner, Brandon	G/T	6-6	300	1	Villanova	FA-20	FA-LAR-19
78	Kelly, Ryan	C	6-4	307	4	Alabama	D1-16	D1-Ind-16
68	Lang, Cedrick	T	6-7	300	2	UTEP	FA-19	FA-NYG-16
56	Nelson, Quenton	G/C	6-5	330	2	Notre Dame	D1-18	D1-Ind-18
65	Patterson, Javon	C	6-3	307	1	Ole Miss	D7-19	D7-Ind-19
72	Smith, Braden	T/G	6-6	315	2	Auburn	D2-18	D2-Ind-18
67	Vornkahl, Travis	T	6-5	300	1	West Texas A&M	FA-19	FA-Cle-19

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
96	Autry, Denico	DL	6-5	285	6	Mississippi State	FA-LV-18	FA-LV-14
52	Banogu, Ben	DE	6-3	252	1	TCU	D2-19	D2-Ind-19
99	Buckner, DeForest	DT	6-7	295	4	Oregon	T-SF-20	D1a-SF-16
91	Day, Sheldon	DT	6-1	285	4	Notre Dame	FA-SF-20	D4-Jac-16
95	Green, Gerri	DE	6-4	252	1	Mississippi State	D6-19	D6-Ind-19
50	Houston, Justin	DE	6-3	270	9	Georgia	FA-KC-19	D3a-KC-11
79	Jegede, Jegs	DE	6-5	273	1	Valdosta State	FA-19	FA-Ind-19
94	Lewis, Tyquan	DL	6-3	277	2	Ohio State	D2-18	D2-Ind-18
97	Muhammad, Al-Quadin	DE	6-4	250	3	Miami	W-NO-18	D6-NO-17
90	Stewart, Grover	DT	6-4	315	3	Albany State	D4-17	D4-Ind-17
57	Turay, Kemoko	DE	6-5	248	2	Rutgers	D2-18	D2-Ind-18

LINEBACKERS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
49	Adams, Matthew	LB	6-0	229	2	Houston	D7-18	D7-Ind-18
44	Franklin, Zaire	LB	6-0	235	2	Syracuse	D7-18	D7-Ind-18
53	Leonard, Darius	LB	6-2	230	2	South Carolina St.	D2-18	D2-Ind-18
55	Moore, Skai	LB	6-2	225	2	South Carolina	FA-18	FA-Ind-18
58	Okereke, Bobby	LB	6-1	235	1	Stanford	D3-19	D3-Ind-19
45	Speed, E.J.	LB	6-3	224	1	Tarleton State	D5-19	D5-Ind-19
54	Walker, Anthony	LB	6-1	230	3	Northwestern	D5-17	D5-Ind-17

DEFENSIVE BACKS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
38	Carrie, T.J.	CB	6-0	204	6	Ohio	FA-Cle-20	D7a-Oak-14
29	Hooker, Malik	S	6-1	214	3	Ohio State	D1-17	D1-Ind-17
38	Johnson, Isaiah	S	6-1	210	3	Georgia Tech	FA-19	FA-Det-15
42	Milligan, Rolan	S	5-10	200	1	Toledo	FA-18	FA-Dal-16
23	Moore II, Kenny	CB	5-9	190	3	Valdosta State	W-NE-17	FA-NE-17
38	Nelson Jr., Picasso	CB	5-10	193	1	Southern Miss	FA-19	FA-Jac-19
30	Odum, George	S	6-1	202	2	Central Arkansas	FA-18	FA-Ind-18
40	Pitts, Lafayette	CB	5-11	195	3	Pittsburgh	FA-19	FA-Mia-16
36	Porter, Jackson	CB	6-0	200	1	Massachusetts	FA-19	FA-Bal-18
27	Rhodes, Xavier	CB	6-1	218	7	Florida State	FA-Min-20	D1b-Min-13
39	Tell III, Marvell	CB	6-2	195	1	USC	D5-19	D5-Ind-19
37	Willis, Khari	S	5-11	213	1	Michigan State	D4-19	D4-Ind-19
26	Ya-Sin, Rock	CB	6-0	190	1	Temple	D2-19	D2-Ind-19

SPECIALISTS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
5	McLaughlin, Chase	K	6-0	190	1	Illinois	W-SF-19	FA-Buf-19
46	Rhodes, Luke	LS	6-2	238	3	William & Mary	FA-16	FA-TB-16
8	Sanchez, Rigoberto	P	6-0	195	3	Hawaii	FA-17	FA-Ind-17

Scouting the Colts

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP INDIANAPOLIS "QB Jacoby Brissett was a conservative game manager, and the front office didn't surround him with enough weapons to elevate the offense. So they signed future Hall of Fame QB Philip Rivers, who has a previous relationship with head coach Frank Reich. … RB Marlon Mack led this group to a top-10 rushing attack, one that should improve further with the addition of rookie RB Jonathan Taylor. … Playmaking WR T.Y. Hilton was hurt and had a career-worst season, but they drafted bigger WR Michael Pittman Jr. to complement WR Zach Pascal (five TDs). Expect electric athlete Parris Campbell to be involved with gadget plays. … They have a top-three OL unit led by All-Pro OG Quenton Nelson and LT Anthony Castonzo. … Defensively, they relied on a philosophy of being fast, but they were undersized and had to get stouter up front, which they accomplished with the splash trade for Pro Bowl DT DeForest Buckner, making him the second-highest-paid DT in the NFL. Veteran edge Justin Houston led the team with 11 sacks, but they need younger players to step up. … This is an underrated ILB unit with Anthony Walker, who led the team in tackles, and Darius Leonard leading this defense. … They signed former All-Pro CB Xavier Rhodes to salvage whatever's left of his career and expect CB Rock Ya-Sin to step up. Nickel Kenny Moore II is the best player in a young secondary. The young safety duo features rangy ballhawk Malik Hooker and box safety Khari Willis. … Can Rivers finally get a chance to play in a Super Bowl?"

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
DT	DeForest Buckner	San Francisco
TE	Trey Burton	Chicago
CB	T.J. Carrie	Cleveland
DT	Sheldon Day	San Francisco
FB	Roosevelt Nix	Pittsburgh
CB	Xavier Rhodes	Minnesota

KEY LOSSES −

POS.	PLAYER	2020 TEAM
C	Josh Andrews	N.Y. Jets
CB	Pierre Desir	N.Y. Jets
TE	Eric Ebron	Pittsburgh
S	Clayton Geathers	Free Agent
OL	Joe Haeg	Tampa Bay
DT	Margus Hunt	New Orleans
DE	Jabaal Sheard	Free Agent
PK	Adam Vinatieri	Free Agent
RB	Jonathan Williams	Free Agent

Offseason Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR	13	T.Y. Hilton	14	Zach Pascal
WR	86	Michael Pittman Jr. (R)	83	Marcus Johnson
WR	15	Parris Campbell	10	Daurice Fountain
LT	74	Anthony Castonzo	69	Chaz Green
LG	56	Quenton Nelson	60	Jake Eldrenkamp
C	78	Ryan Kelly	65	Javon Patterson
RG	64	Mark Glowinski	63	Danny Pinter (R)
RT	72	Braden Smith	62	Le'Raven Clark
TE	84	Jack Doyle	80	Trey Burton
QB	17	Philip Rivers	7	Jacoby Brissett
RB	25	Marlon Mack	28	Jonathan Taylor (R)

DEFENSE

DE	97	Al-Quadin Muhammad	57	Kemoko Turay
NT	96	Denico Autry	90	Grover Stewart
UT	99	DeForest Buckner	94	Tyquan Lewis
DE	50	Justin Houston	52	Ben Banogu
SLB	58	Bobby Okereke	49	Matthew Adams
MLB	54	Anthony Walker	44	Zaire Franklin
WLB	53	Darius Leonard	45	E.J. Speed
CB	26	Rock Ya-Sin	38	T.J. Carrie
CB	27	Xavier Rhodes	23	Kenny Moore II
SS	37	Khari Willis	42	Rolan Milligan
FS	29	Malik Hooker	30	George Odum

SPECIALISTS

K	5	Chase McLaughlin	KR	21	Nyheim Hines
P	8	Rigoberto Sanchez	PR	21	Nyheim Hines

Peter Brouillet

Colts *in the Draft* | Grade: B+

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
2.	**Michael Pittman Jr.**	**WR**	**6-4**	**223**	**USC**
2.	Jonathan Taylor	RB	5-10	226	Wisconsin
3.	Julian Blackmon	S	6-0	187	Utah
4.	Jacob Eason	QB	6-6	231	Washington
5.	Danny Pinter	OG	6-4	306	Ball State
6.	Robert Windsor	DT	6-4	290	Penn State
6.	Isaiah Rodgers	CB/KR	5-10	170	UMass
6.	Dezmon Patmon	WR	6-4	225	Washington State
6.	Jordan Glasgow	LB	6-1	226	Michigan

Michael Pittman Jr. could be the team's most effective wide receiver with size since Reggie Wayne. The son of a longtime NFL running back, Pittman brings toughness and exceptional ball skills. Jonathan Taylor, who rushed for 6,174 yards in just three seasons (an NCAA record), will split carries with Marlon Mack, but don't be surprised if the rookie ends up getting more because Mack is injury prone. Julian Blackmon is coming off ACL surgery, so he won't get on the field until August at the earliest. Jacob Eason arguably has the strongest arm of this QB draft class, so taking a chance on a long-term prospect outweighed the risk. The Colts really liked Danny Pinter as a versatile fit at guard and center because of his strength and quick feet.

Outside the Huddle

NO MATCHING BRADY When quarterback Philip Rivers agreed to join the Colts after 16 seasons with the Chargers, the 38-year-old passer acknowledged his time was limited because he wanted to coach his sons some day. In explaining his time line, he joked about not trying to hang around as long as 42-year-old quarterback Tom Brady, who departed in free agency from New England for a two-year, $50-million guaranteed deal in Tampa Bay. "I have two boys that are 12 and 8, so my oldest will be a sixth grader. We've got a little bit of time," Rivers said of playing beyond next season. "That gives you a little idea. (But) I'm not going to get carried away. I don't think you're going to see me in the Tom Brady range."

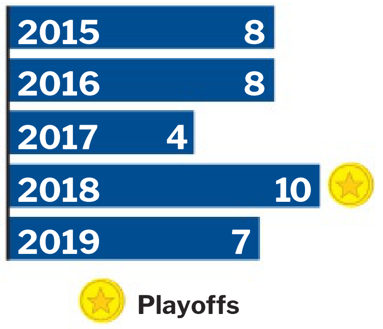
IRSAY MISSES LUCK Colts owner Jim Irsay was quite candid in an interview before February's NFL Scouting Combine about the fact that he still holds out hope that retired quarterback Andrew Luck, 30, will return some day. The franchise cornerstone walked away unexpectedly before the 2019 season. "Andrew is my friend," Irsay said. "And I miss my friend."

COLTS FAN COMES HOME Indianapolis native Sheldon Day became the second player on the roster to play for his hometown team, joining Pro Bowl tight end Jack Doyle, when the defensive tackle signed a one-year deal in free agency. Growing up a Colts fan always meant hurrying home from church to watch Sunday games. "I loved Peyton (Manning). I loved Edgerrin (James). I loved Dwight Freeney, Robert Mathis," Day says. "What I love about Indy the most is the feeling you get within the city. Sports are huge in Indianapolis, and most people don't know that. It's just a Midwest town with a lot of love for the people in it, the sports in it, and just as a whole it's a great place."

WORKOUT PARTNERS Before the coronavirus pandemic forced everybody indoors, USC wide receiver Michael Pittman Jr. and Washington State wide receiver Dezmon Patmon worked with the same performance coach, along with other players including LSU quarterback Joe Burrow, the Heisman Trophy winner and No. 1 overall pick. The Colts' push to add bigger receivers saw them draft Pittman in the second round and then Patmon in the sixth round. Both players stand 6'4". "I feel like we bring similar skill sets, being big athletic guys who can go up and high-point the ball and just playmakers really," Patmon says.

REICH LOVES RIVERS Colts head coach Frank Reich worked with Rivers as a Chargers assistant for three years, so he didn't hesitate to make a passionate pitch to bring a player whom he considers to be a future Hall of Famer to Indy. Rivers already knows about 80 percent of the Colts playbook, is the ultimate leader and is genuinely interested in being involved in the Indianapolis community. "When I was in San Diego, I got to know his family," Reich said. "I was over at his house several times. I know his children. He's not just coming to be on this team, he's coming to be in this community. His children — his nine children — can't wait to move to this community. They all have their Colts gear already."

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



NUMBERS TO KNOW

93.5

Opponents hit a league-best 93.5 percent of their field goals (29-of-31) against the Colts.

5

Despite trailing by an average of 1.26 points, the Colts had the fifth-highest number of rush attempts in the NFL.

33.3

Colts opponents went three-and-out on 33.3 percent of drives, the third-lowest rate in the NFL.

Jacksonville
JAGUARS

AFC South Forecast: 4

THE ORGANIZATION

Owner: Shahid Khan
President: Mark Lamping
General Manager: David Caldwell
Director of Player Personnel: Trent Baalke
Stadium: TIAA Bank Field (67,838)
Surface: Grass
Website: www.jaguars.com
Tickets: 904-633-2000
Training Camp: Finders Homes Practice Complex (Jacksonville, Fla.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Doug Marrone
Record With Team: 22-28
Career Record: 37-45
Offensive Coordinator: Jay Gruden
Defensive Coordinator: Todd Wash
Special Teams Coordinator: Joe DeCamillis
Quarterbacks: Ben McAdoo
Running Backs: Terry Robiskie
Wide Receivers: Keenan McCardell
Tight Ends: Ron Middleton
Offensive Line: George Warhop
Defensive Line: Jason Rebrovich
Linebackers: Mark Collins
Secondary/Cornerbacks: Tim Walton
Secondary/Safeties: Joe Danna

The Jaguars will be one of the youngest teams in the NFL this season. Sixty-eight players on their 90-man roster have four years of experience or less. And 39 current players were not on the team last year. They still have some promising young talent, but not enough to make a strong push in the AFC South. Because they lack experience at too many key positions, including quarterback, the Jaguars are likely headed for their third consecutive losing season under Doug Marrone after reaching the AFC title game following the 2017 season.

Cornerback CJ Henderson, whom the Jaguars drafted ninth overall in the April draft, will be expected to stay in front of every opponent's top receiver and force his share of pass breakups.

In the trenches, Marrone wants to see rookie outside linebacker/edge rusher K'Lavon Chaisson come off the edge with similar ferocity as current Jags Josh Allen or Yannick Ngakoue, if the latter is not traded.

Offensively, the Jaguars don't have enough proven playmakers with breakaway speed despite selecting former Colorado receiver Laviska Shenault Jr. in the second round.

Pro Bowl wideout DJ Chark Jr. will draw most of the attention of opposing defenses, but the Jags need more big-play capability from both Dede Westbrook and Chris Conley, especially in terms of yardage after the catch and more touchdown grabs in the red zone.

The Jaguars declined to exercise running back Leonard Fournette's fifth-year option, and the former No. 4 overall pick should be motivated to achieve a breakthrough season in the final year of his rookie contract.

Bottom line, though: It is Gardner Minshew II's team after the Jaguars traded veteran Nick Foles to the Chicago Bears in March.

OFFENSE It will be new offensive coordinator Jay Gruden's job to revitalize the Jaguars offense with a more potent vertical passing game and develop Minshew into a more polished quarterback. Marrone expects to see more steadiness from Minshew — more touchdown passes, better success in the red zone and fewer lost fumbles than the seven he had in 2019, tied for second most among quarterbacks.

Chark will be the featured weapon. He enjoyed a breakout season in 2019, with 73 catches for 1,008 yards and eight touchdowns after having only 14 catches for 174 yards and no touchdowns in 2018 as a rookie.

Most of the Jaguars' opponents will probably provide their cornerbacks with safety help to limit Chark's downfield opportunities. That means wideouts Westbrook, Conley and Shenault will have to emerge as threats on underneath routes. Gruden's offense is designed around play-action passing, taking shots downfield and quick reads by the quarterback.

The Jaguars did little to upgrade their offensive line this offseason. Because of the line's inconsistent play, the Jaguars ranked 31st in red zone efficiency (40.43 percent) last season. Also, the unit allowed 182 quarterback pressures, the 10th most in the league, according to Pro Football Focus.

Left guard Andrew Norwell has underperformed. Left tackle Cam Robinson played hurt the entire season in 2019 after hyperextending his right knee three days before a Week 1 loss. The Jaguars drafted former Division III offensive lineman Ben Bartch in the fourth round. He could push Robinson at left tackle, but he likely will need to develop, especially with the limited offseason

2020 SCHEDULE			2019 NFL RANKINGS				
Date	Opponent	Time	2019 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 13	Indianapolis	1:00	7-9	327.4 (25)	346.8 (16)	22.6 (t16)	23.3 (18)
Sept. 20	at Tennessee	1:00	9-7	362.8 (12)	359.5 (21)	25.1 (10)	20.7 (12)
Sept. 24	Miami (Thu.)	8:20	5-11	310.0 (27)	397.8 (30)	19.1 (25)	30.9 (32)
Oct. 4	at Cincinnati	1:00	2-14	323.1 (26)	393.7 (29)	17.4 (30)	26.2 (25)
Oct. 11	at Houston	1:00	10-6	362.0 (13)	388.3 (28)	23.6 (14)	24.1 (19)
Oct. 18	Detroit	1:00	3-12-1	346.8 (17)	400.4 (31)	21.3 (t18)	26.4 (26)
BYE							
Nov. 1	at L.A. Chargers	4:05	5-11	367.4 (10)	313.1 (6)	21.1 (21)	21.6 (14)
Nov. 8	Houston	1:00	10-6	362.0 (13)	388.3 (28)	23.6 (14)	24.1 (19)
Nov. 15	at Green Bay	1:00	13-3	345.5 (18)	352.6 (18)	23.5 (15)	19.6 (9)
Nov. 22	Pittsburgh	1:00	8-8	276.8 (30)	304.1 (5)	18.1 (27)	18.9 (t5)
Nov. 29	Cleveland	1:00	6-10	340.9 (22)	361.6 (22)	20.9 (22)	24.6 (20)
Dec. 6	at Minnesota	1:00	10-6	353.5 (16)	341.6 (14)	25.4 (8)	18.9 (t5)
Dec. 13	Tennessee	1:00	9-7	362.8 (12)	359.5 (21)	25.1 (10)	20.7 (12)
Dec. 20	at Baltimore	1:00	14-2	407.6 (2)	300.6 (4)	33.2 (1)	17.6 (3)
Dec. 27	Chicago	1:00	8-8	296.8 (29)	324.1 (8)	17.5 (29)	18.6 (4)
Jan. 3	at Indianapolis	1:00	7-9	327.4 (25)	346.8 (16)	22.6 (t16)	23.3 (18)

Tom DiPace via AP

Gardner Minshew II

QUARTERBACK

2019 RESULTS (6-10)

Sept.	8	Kansas City	L	26-40
Sept.	15	at Houston	L	12-13
Sept.	19	Tennessee	W	20-7
Sept.	29	at Denver	W	26-24
Oct.	6	at Carolina	L	27-34
Oct.	13	New Orleans	L	6-13
Oct.	20	at Cincinnati	W	27-17
Oct.	27	N.Y. Jets	W	29-15
Nov.	3	Houston	L	3-26
Nov.	17	at Indianapolis	L	13-33
Nov.	24	at Tennessee	L	20-42
Dec.	1	Tampa Bay	L	11-28
Dec.	8	L.A. Chargers	L	10-45
Dec.	15	at Oakland	W	20-16
Dec.	22	at Atlanta	L	12-24
Dec.	29	Indianapolis	W	38-20

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Gardner Minshew II	470	285	3,271	21	6
Nick Foles	117	77	736	3	2

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Leonard Fournette	265	1,152	4.3	3
Gardner Minshew II	67	344	5.1	0
Ryquell Armstead	35	108	3.1	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
DJ Chark Jr.	73	1,008	13.8	8
Chris Conley	47	775	16.5	5
Dede Westbrook	66	660	10.0	3
Leonard Fournette	76	522	6.9	0

KICKING: Josh Lambo, 33-34 FGs, 19-20 PAT, 118 points

TACKLES: Jarrod Wilson, 79; Ronnie Harrison, 71

SACKS: Josh Allen, 10.5; Yannick Ngakoue, 8.0

INTERCEPTIONS: Tre Herndon, 3; two tied with 2

2019 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	341.8	20	8
Rushing	106.8	17	8
Passing	235.0	16	7
Scoring	18.8	26	12
Third Down %	34.6	26	12
Punt Returns	5.0	30	16
Kick Returns	24.2	8	5

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	375.4	24	13
Rushing	139.3	28	14
Passing	236.1	16	9
Scoring	24.8	21	13
Interceptions	10	T25	T14
Sacks	47	T7	T2
Turnover Differential	-1	T18	10

Leonard Fournette

Matt Hernandez

work. The Jaguars need to move Robinson to guard and move guard Will Richardson Jr. to tackle. But Richardson couldn't beat out A.J. Cann for the starting right guard job. Center Brandon Linder remains the mainstay. Right tackle Jawaan Taylor played all 1,091 snaps, but he tied for the most penalties in league with 15.

In Gruden's offense, Fournette is not likely to get the workload he had in 2019, when he carried it 265 times and added 76 catches for 522 yards. Chris Thompson, signed in free agency, is expected to be the team's top third-down back because of his pass-catching skills. Thompson has 212 career catches for 1,772 yards and 10 touchdowns in seven seasons with the Redskins.

The Jaguars signed former Cincinnati Bengals tight end Tyler Eifert in free agency. Eifert has struggled with injuries, but he did not miss a game last season for the first time in his career, catching 43 passes for 436 yards with three touchdowns. Since 2018, Jaguars tight ends have combined to score only four touchdowns in 32 games.

DEFENSE The Jaguars are counting on 2018 first-round pick Taven Bryan to be productive after the defensive tackle struggled to meet expectations. They want him to use his hands more to get off blocks, become more instinctive to get in position to make tackles and take advantage of more pass-rush moves other than the straight-ahead bull rush. Though it's a rebuilding season, the Jaguars can no longer wait on Bryan to develop. Bryan could be unseated as a starter by veteran Rodney Gunter.

The Jaguars made a concerted effort in the offseason to improve their defensive front, signing Gunter, Al Woods and Cassius Marsh Sr. in free agency. In the draft, the Jaguars used a third-round pick to select former Ohio State defensive tackle DaVon Hamilton.

The Jaguars finished 28th in the league against the run, and they allowed 23 rushing touchdowns — the second-highest total behind Carolina's 31.

With the Jaguars trading veteran defensive end Calais Campbell and top cornerback A.J. Bouye and parting ways with defensive tackle Marcell Dareus' contract, defensive coordinator Todd Wash plans to be more flexible schematically.

Wash is going interchange his customary 4-3 alignment with the 3-4 in the base sets. Marrone says that the Jaguars need to be a more attacking defense to take advantage of Allen's athleticism by playing him at outside linebacker, where he can make more plays sideline to sideline.

The Jaguars also upgraded their middle linebacker position with the addition of former Cleveland Brown Joe Schobert, who gets off blocks well to stop inside runs. They added depth at the spot by selecting Shaquille Quarterman in the fourth round. Quarterman never missed a game in four seasons at Miami and was a first-team All-ACC selection last season after finishing with 107 tackles.

The Jaguars don't have much behind projected cornerback starters Tre Herndon and Henderson, though they did sign former Detroit Lion Rashaan Melvin in free agency. D.J. Harden is the starting nickel corner.

SPECIALISTS The two most stable positions on the Jaguars' roster heading into the season are kicker and punter. Kicker Josh Lambo has a franchise-best 94.7 field-goal percentage, which is the highest by any player in the NFL since 2017 (min. 10 FGA). He will enter the season trying to extend a streak of 42 consecutive made field goals in home games since joining the Jaguars in 2017. Punter Logan Cooke's 42.8 career net punting average ranks first in franchise history. The Jaguars drafted Chris Claybrooks in the seventh round to become the team's kick returner, and Westbrook will return punts.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Jaguars don't have enough proven, experienced talent to achieve a winning record. At best, they could finish with five or six wins, but this is a rebuild with plans of continuing to add young talent to the roster. The Jaguars have nine picks in the 2021 draft, including two in the first round for the second consecutive season.

Scouting the Jaguars

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP JACKSONVILLE "Owner Shahid Khan granted one last opportunity for head coach Doug Marrone and GM David Caldwell. QB Nick Foles was traded to Chicago just one season into a four-year, $88 million contract, making league favorite Gardner Minshew II the official starting QB. ... RB Leonard Fournette had a productive season but apparently was on the trade block. Slot WR Dede Westbrook was their most consistent option until WR DJ Chark Jr. (73 receptions, 1,008 yards, eight TDs) emerged. The TEs have been disappointing, so they signed Tyler Eifert, who has familiarity with new offensive coordinator Jay Gruden. ... The OL played mediocre, and LT Cam Robinson showed he was still timid from the ACL injury, but RT Jawaan Taylor stepped up towards the end of the season, and Brandon Linder is one of the most underrated centers in the NFL. ... Defensively, they lost their confidence once they traded away All-Pro CB Jalen Ramsey. They didn't play up to the 'Sacksonville' standard — and they traded disruptive DT Calais Campbell and have had constant trade demands from DE Yannick Ngakoue. Expect second-year DE Josh Allen (10.5 sacks), DT Taven Bryan and rookie edge K'Lavon Chaisson to break out. ... Myles Jack got paid top-three ILB money last year and underperformed, so they signed underrated ILB Joe Schobert, making this one this is the highest-paid duos in the NFL with extremely high expectations. ... They have high hopes for top draft pick CB CJ Henderson and expect leadership from safety Ronnie Harrison. ... They must make the playoffs for this regime to survive, so hopefully 'Minshew Mania' is the spark."

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
TE	Tyler Eifert	Cincinnati
DE	Aaron Lynch	Chicago
DT	Rodney Gunter	Arizona
LB/DE	Cassius Marsh Sr.	Arizona
CB	Rashaan Melvin	Detroit
LB	Joe Schobert	Cleveland
DT	Al Woods	Seattle

KEY LOSSES -

POS.	PLAYER	2020 TEAM
CB	A.J. Bouye	Denver
DE	Calais Campbell	Baltimore
DT	Marcell Dareus	Free Agent
QB	Nick Foles	Chicago

Offseason Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR	17	DJ Chark Jr.	84	Keelan Cole
WR	12	Dede Westbrook	10	Laviska Shenault Jr. (R)
LT	74	Cam Robinson	78	Ben Bartch (R)
LG	68	Andrew Norwell	69	Tyler Shatley
C	65	Brandon Linder	61	Tyler Gauthier
RG	60	A.J. Cann	76	Will Richardson Jr.
RT	75	Jawaan Taylor	72	Blake Hance
TE	88	Tyler Eifert	80	James O'Shaughnessy
QB	15	Gardner Minshew II	11	Joshua Dobbs
RB	27	Leonard Fournette	23	Ryquell Armstead
FB	43	Connor Slomka (R)	33	Devine Ozigbo

DEFENSE

DE	41	Josh Allen	94	Dawuane Smoot
DT	97	Al Woods	95	Abry Jones
DT	90	Taven Bryan	99	Rodney Gunter
DE	91	Yannick Ngakoue	45	K'Lavon Chaisson (R)
WLB	44	Myles Jack	56	Quincy Williams
MLB	47	Joe Schobert	50	Shaquille Quarterman (R)
SLB	54	Cassius Marsh Sr.	48	Leon Jacobs
RCB	21	CJ Henderson (R)	22	Rashaan Melvin
LCB	37	Tre Herndon	25	D.J. Hayden
FS	26	Jarrod Wilson	20	Daniel Thomas (R)
SS	36	Ronnie Harrison	42	Andrew Wingard

SPECIALISTS

K	4	Josh Lambo	KR	7	Chris Claybrooks (R)
P	9	Logan Cooke	PR	12	Dede Westbrook

2020 VETERAN JAGUARS ROSTER

	QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
11	Dobbs, Joshua	QB	6-3	219	3	Tennessee	T-Pit-19	D4-Pit-17
	Glennon, Mike	QB	6-7	225	7	NC State	FA-LV-20	D3-TB-13
15	Minshew II, Gardner	QB	6-1	225	1	Washington State	D6-19	D6-Jac-19
	RUNNING BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
23	Armstead, Ryquell	RB	5-11	220	1	Temple	D5-19	D5-Jac-19
23	Blue, Alfred	RB	6-2	229	6	LSU	FA-Hou-19	D6b-Hou-14
27	Fournette, Leonard	RB	6-0	228	3	LSU	D1-17	D1-Jac-17
33	Ozigbo, Devine	RB	6-2	225	1	Nebraska	W-NO-19	FA-NO-19
	Thompson, Chris	RB	5-8	195	6	Florida State	FA-Was-20	D5a-Was-13
	RECEIVERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
16	Board, C.J.	WR	6-1	181	1	Chattanooga	FA-18	FA-Bal-17
17	Chark Jr., DJ	WR	6-4	198	2	LSU	D2-18	D2-Jac-18
84	Cole, Keelan	WR	6-1	194	3	Kentucky Wesleyan	FA-17	FA-Jac-17
18	Conley, Chris	WR	6-3	205	5	Georgia	FA-KC-19	D3a-KC-15
88	Eifert, Tyler	TE	6-6	255	7	Notre Dame	FA-Cin-20	D1-Cin-13
14	Godwin, Terry	WR	5-11	185	1	Georgia	FA-19	D7-Car-19
85	Jones, Charles	TE	6-4	255	1	Tulane	FA-19	FA-Jac-19
80	O'Shaughnessy, James	TE	6-4	245	5	Illinois State	W-NE-17	D5-KC-15
89	Oliver, Josh	TE	6-5	249	1	San Jose State	D3a-19	D3a-Jac-19
13	Walker, Michael	WR	5-11	194	1	Boston College	FA-19	FA-Jac-19
12	Westbrook, Dede	WR	6-0	178	3	Oklahoma	D4-17	D4-Jac-17
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
60	Cann, A.J.	OL	6-3	315	5	South Carolina	D3-15	D3-Jac-15
61	Gauthier, Tyler	OL	6-5	305	1	Miami	PS-NE-19	FA-NE-19
72	Hance, Blake	OL	6-5	310	1	Northwestern	FA-19	FA-Buf-19
65	Linder, Brandon	OL	6-6	315	6	Miami	D3-14	D3-Jac-14
68	Norwell, Andrew	OL	6-6	325	6	Ohio State	FA-Car-18	FA-Car-14
67	Pope, Ryan	OL	6-7	315	1	San Diego State	FA-19	FA-Det-19
76	Richardson Jr., Will	OL	6-6	306	2	NC State	D4-18	D4-Jac-18
74	Robinson, Cam	OL	6-6	320	3	Alabama	D2-17	D2-Jac-17
69	Shatley, Tyler	OL	6-3	310	6	Clemson	FA-14	FA-Jac-14
75	Taylor, Jawaan	OL	6-5	312	1	Florida	D2-19	D2-Jac-19
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
41	Allen, Josh	DE	6-5	262	1	Kentucky	D1-19	D1-Jac-19
90	Bryan, Taven	DL	6-5	291	2	Florida	D1-18	D1-Jac-18
79	Davis, Carl	DT	6-5	320	5	Iowa	FA-19	D3-Bal-15
99	Gunter, Rodney	DT	6-5	305	5	Delaware State	FA-Ari-20	D4-Ari-15
95	Jones, Abry	DT	6-4	318	7	Georgia	FA-13	FA-Jac-13
55	McCray, Lerentee	DE	6-3	249	7	Florida	FA-Buf-17	FA-Den-13
91	Ngakoue, Yannick	DE	6-2	246	4	Maryland	D3-16	D3-Jac-16
92	Price, Brian	DT	6-3	322	3	UTSA	FA-19	FA-GB-16
98	Russell, Dontavius	DT	6-3	320	1	Auburn	D7-19	D7-Jac-19
94	Smoot, Dawuane	DE	6-3	264	3	Illinois	D3-17	D3-Jac-17
97	Woods, Al	DT	6-4	330	10	LSU	FA-Sea-20	D4-NO-10
	LINEBACKERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
53	Allen, Dakota	LB	6-1	232	1	Texas Tech	PS-LAR-19	D7-LAR-19
43	Giles-Harris, Joe	LB	6-2	234	1	Duke	FA-19	FA-Jac-19
44	Jack, Myles	LB	6-1	244	4	UCLA	D2-16	D2-Jac-16
48	Jacobs, Leon	LB	6-2	246	2	Wisconsin	D7a-18	D7a-Jac-18
59	Lynch, Aaron	LB	6-5	285	6	South Florida	FA-Chi-20	D5-SF-14
54	Marsh Sr., Cassius	LB	6-4	254	6	UCLA	FA-Ari-20	D4-Sea-14
47	Schobert, Joe	LB	6-1	245	4	Wisconsin	FA-Cle-20	D4a-Cle-16
56	Williams, Quincy	LB	5-11	225	1	Murray State	D3b-19	D3b-Jac-19
	DEFENSIVE BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
36	Harrison, Ronnie	S	6-3	207	2	Alabama	D3-18	D3-Jac-18
25	Hayden, D.J.	CB	5-11	190	7	Houston	FA-Det-18	D1-LV-13
37	Herndon, Tre	CB	5-11	185	2	Vanderbilt	FA-18	FA-Jac-18
	Jones, Josh	S	6-2	220	3	NC State	W-Dal-20	D2-GB-17
22	Melvin, Rashaan	CB	6-2	194	7	Northern Illinois	FA-Det-20	FA-TB-13
39	Middleton, Doug	S	6-0	210	3	Appalachian State	FA-19	FA-NYJ-16
35	Nickerson, Parry	CB	5-10	182	2	Tulane	FA-19	D6-NYJ-18
40	Watson, Brandon	CB	5-11	198	1	Michigan	FA-19	FA-Jac-19
26	Wilson, Jarrod	S	6-2	210	4	Michigan	FA-16	FA-Jac-16
42	Wingard, Andrew	S	6-0	209	1	Wyoming	FA-19	FA-Jac-19
	SPECIALISTS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
9	Cooke, Logan	P	6-5	230	2	Mississippi State	D7b-18	D7b-Jac-18
4	Lambo, Josh	K	6-0	215	5	Texas A&M	FA-17	FA-LAC-15
46	Orzech, Matthew	LS	6-3	246	1	Azusa Pacific	W-Bal-19	FA-Bal-19

Jaguars *in the Draft* | Grade: B

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	**CJ Henderson**	**CB**	**6-1**	**204**	**Florida**
1.	K'Lavon Chaisson	DE	6-3	254	LSU
2.	Laviska Shenault Jr.	WR	6-1	227	Colorado
3.	DaVon Hamilton	DT	6-4	320	Ohio State
4.	Ben Bartch	OL	6-6	309	St. John's (Minn.)
4.	Josiah Scott	CB	5-9	185	Michigan State
4.	Shaquille Quarterman	LB	6-0	234	Miami
5.	Daniel Thomas	S	5-10	215	Auburn
5.	Collin Johnson	WR	6-6	222	Texas
6.	Jake Luton	QB	6-6	224	Oregon State
6.	Tyler Davis	TE	6-4	252	Georgia Tech
7.	Chris Claybrooks	CB/KR	5-9	179	Memphis

The Jaguars addressed their most pressing needs. They selected former Florida cornerback CJ Henderson ninth overall to fill the void left by Jalen Ramsey and A.J. Bouye. Henderson will step in and start opposite Tre Herndon this season. Defensive end Yannick Ngakoue wants out of Jacksonville, so the Jaguars found his replacement with K'Lavon Chaisson. The Jaguars added a new receiving target for Gardner Minshew II in the second round with Colorado's Laviska Shenault Jr. He lacks blazing speed but can play in the slot or outside or even line up in the backfield.

Outside the Huddle

NO GAMES IN LONDON For the first time since 2012, the Jaguars will play eight home games in Jacksonville. In February, the Jaguars announced they were going to move two home games to London for the 2020 season. But the NFL called off its annual International Series due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Jaguars had played a game in London for seven consecutive seasons.

LONG ODDS The Las Vegas oddsmakers are convinced that the Jaguars will not be much better in 2020 than they were last season. BetOnline has the Jaguars tied with the Cincinnati Bengals and Washington Redskins for the worst odds to win the Super Bowl at 250-1. The Jaguars have gone 11–21 over the past two seasons since reaching the AFC Championship Game.

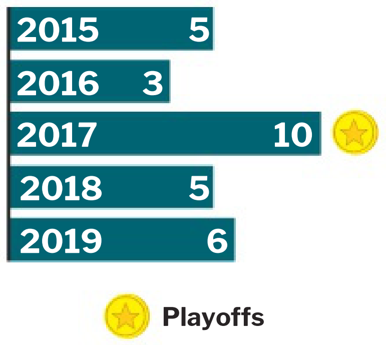
LIMITED OPTIONS Although defensive end Yannick Ngakoue continues to demand a trade, GM Dave Caldwell says the team plans to welcome him back with open arms. The Jaguars designated Ngakoue with the non-exclusive franchise tag, but they have actively tried to trade him. "Truth be told, we weren't able to get a trade," Caldwell says. "Actually, we weren't able to get an offer, so I think his options are limited at this point."

NO DRAMA If the regular season begins as scheduled, head coach Doug Marrone expects to have a bigger, stronger and tougher team. He also expects fewer distractions than what the Jags had to deal with over the past two seasons. "We don't want a lot of drama," Marrone says. "We want people to be on the same page as far as everything we are doing. It's all about trying to win."

FOUR QBS The Jaguars quarterback room previously had three players with a combined 19 NFL games. But that changed when the Jaguars signed veteran quarterback Mike Glennon, an eight-year veteran. In the past four years, Glennon has played with four other teams — Oakland in 2019, Arizona in 2018, Chicago in 2017 and Tampa Bay from 2013-16. "There's a comfort level to having a veteran presence in that (quarterback) room," Marrone says. "I feel he's going to help our football team in a lot of ways. I'm happy with that." Glennon joins starting quarterback Gardner Minshew and backups Joshua Dobbs and sixth-round pick Jake Luton.

VIRTUAL REALITY Like many, Marrone is still adjusting to the virtual aspect of his job because of the coronavirus crisis. He says that addressing the team virtually obviously has a different impact than standing in front of them face to face. "I've used PowerPoint to get some points across," Marrone says. "I found it a little bit difficult. I didn't think it had the same effect. From a coaching perspective, it's a little more challenging because you are trying to figure out each player." The Jaguars are looking into installing a "virtual simulator" to help players get a better sense of their responsibilities on plays during installation work. "It's on the wall like a drive-in movie (screen), you can project a picture of a whole offensive team breaking the huddle and going into formation," Marrone says. "You can line up on players as they go in motion and move, you can make your [play] calls. You can get a lot of mental reps. We feel it can help our football team."

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



NUMBERS TO KNOW

23

Jacksonville allowed 23 rushing touchdowns last year, second most in the NFL behind only the Panthers.

25.8

The Jaguars had the worst starting field position on offense in the NFL, averaging a start on their own 25.8-yard line.

0.82

Jacksonville scored 0.82 touchdowns per field goal, the worst rate in the NFL.

Tom DiPace

Tennessee
TITANS

AFC South Forecast: 1

THE ORGANIZATION

Controlling Owner/Co-Chairman/Board of Directors: Amy Adams Strunk
Co-Chairman, Board of Directors: Susie Adams Smith
President/CEO: Burke Nihill
Executive VP/General Manager: Jon Robinson
VP of Football Administration: Vin Marino
Stadium: Nissan Stadium (69,143)
Surface: Grass
Website: www.titansonline.com
Tickets: 615-565-4200
Training Camp: Saint Thomas Sports Park (Nashville, Tenn.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Mike Vrabel
Record With Team: 18-14
Career Record: 18-14
Offensive Coordinator: Arthur Smith
Special Teams: Craig Aukerman
Quarterbacks: Pat O'Hara
Running Backs: Tony Dews
Wide Receivers: Rob Moore
Tight Ends: Todd Downing
Offensive Line: Keith Carter
Defensive Line: Terrell Williams
Inside Linebackers: Jim Haslett
Outside Linebackers: Shane Bowen
Secondary: Anthony Midget
Safeties: Scott Booker

The Tennessee Titans can't get on the field fast enough after last season's thrilling playoff run — which included ending Tom Brady's reign in New England and knocking out NFL MVP Lamar Jackson in Baltimore, before ultimately losing the AFC title game to eventual Super Bowl LIV champion Kansas City.

The Titans' brain trust of GM Jon Robinson and third-year head coach Mike Vrabel, both 44, decided to double down on the driving forces behind 2019's success — locking up quarterback Ryan Tannehill with a four-year, $118 million contract and franchise-tagging running back Derrick Henry for $10.278 million in 2020.

But "running it back" is never that simple. Tennessee is moving on without stalwarts like five-time Pro Bowl D-tackle Jurrell Casey, three-time Pro Bowl tight end Delanie Walker and versatile cornerback Logan Ryan.

And let's not forget Marcus Mariota, who never became the "next Steve McNair" that everyone hoped the Hawaiian Heisman Trophy winner would be as the No. 2 overall draft pick in 2015. But he was a respected competitor who won a wild road playoff game in Kansas City three years ago. That's more than Vince Young and Jake Locker can claim.

The biggest loss of the offseason might be 70-year-old retiring defensive coordinator Dean Pees, who has Patriots and Ravens championship pedigree. But the Titans were already playing with house money, since Vrabel persuaded Pees to un-retire prior to the 2018 season.

Speaking of Vrabel … Did anyone else see him outcoach his old boss Bill Belichick in the playoffs? That must have been especially sweet for the former New England linebacker and part-time tight end who won three Super Bowls under Belichick.

OFFENSE Depending on your historian, the Titans had a choice between Brady and Tannehill — a soon-to-be 43-year-old six-time Super Bowl champion vs. a 32-year-old Comeback Player of the Year. Tannehill was the choice. Upon further review, his résumé is that of a potential franchise quarterback. Tannehill has led two teams to playoff berths (Dolphins and Titans) and has ample athleticism (played WR at Texas A&M), elite draft status (No. 8 pick in 2012), big numbers (NFL passer rating leader at 117.5 in 2019) and a hot hand (9–4 record, including playoffs last year). Robinson's trade for Tannehill looks better by the day.

Henry was the league leader in carries (303), rushing yards (1,540), rushing TDs (16) and rushing yards per game (102.7) last season. At 26 and motivated by a franchise tag, the 6'3", 247-pound Heisman Trophy winner is primed to have another huge season. Rookie third-round pick Darrynton Evans will add triple-threat speed, replacing Dion Lewis as the Titans' change-of-pace back. FedEx Ground should continue to deliver in Arthur Smith's second year as play-caller. The 38-year-old son of FedEx founder Frederick W. Smith had a wildly successful debut.

A.J. Brown's rookie year was the start of what could be a supernova career. Brown had 605 yards and five TDs in his final six games, looking like the No. 1 receiver the Titans have perpetually lacked. Former No. 5 overall pick Corey Davis had his fifth-year option declined this offseason but remains a breakout candidate. Jonnu Smith is on the verge of establishing himself as an elite tight end. Belichick said Smith was "great after the catch, probably the best in the league." Adam Humphries is a dependable slot receiver with upside.

2020 SCHEDULE

			2019 NFL RANKINGS				
Date	Opponent	Time	2019 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 14	at Denver (Mon.)	10:10	7-9	298.6 (28)	337.0 (12)	17.6 (28)	19.8 (10)
Sept. 20	Jacksonville	1:00	6-10	341.8 (20)	375.4 (24)	18.8 (26)	24.8 (21)
Sept. 27	at Minnesota	1:00	10-6	353.5 (16)	341.6 (14)	25.4 (8)	18.9 (t5)
Oct. 4	Pittsburgh	1:00	8-8	276.8 (30)	304.1 (5)	18.1 (27)	18.9 (t5)
Oct. 11	Buffalo	1:00	10-6	330.2 (24)	298.3 (3)	19.6 (23)	16.2 (2)
Oct. 18	Houston	1:00	10-6	362.0 (13)	388.3 (28)	23.6 (14)	24.1 (19)
BYE							
Nov. 1	at Cincinnati	1:00	2-14	323.1 (26)	393.7 (29)	17.4 (30)	26.2 (25)
Nov. 8	Chicago	1:00	8-8	296.8 (29)	324.1 (8)	17.5 (29)	18.6 (4)
Nov. 12	Indianapolis (Thu.)	8:20	7-9	327.4 (25)	346.8 (16)	22.6 (t16)	23.3 (18)
Nov. 22	at Baltimore	1:00	14-2	407.6 (2)	300.6 (4)	33.2 (1)	17.6 (3)
Nov. 29	at Indianapolis	1:00	7-9	327.4 (25)	346.8 (16)	22.6 (t16)	23.3 (18)
Dec. 6	Cleveland	1:00	6-10	340.9 (22)	361.6 (22)	20.9 (22)	24.6 (20)
Dec. 13	at Jacksonville	1:00	6-10	341.8 (20)	375.4 (24)	18.8 (26)	24.8 (21)
Dec.19/20	Detroit	TBD	3-12-1	346.8 (17)	400.4 (31)	21.3 (t18)	26.4 (26)
Dec. 27	at Green Bay	8:20	13-3	345.5 (18)	352.6 (18)	23.5 (15)	19.6 (9)
Jan. 3	at Houston	1:00	10-6	362.0 (13)	388.3 (28)	23.6 (14)	24.1 (19)

Ryan Tannehill

QUARTERBACK

2019 RESULTS (9-7)

Sept. 8	at Cleveland	W	43-13
Sept. 15	Indianapolis	L	17-19
Sept. 19	at Jacksonville	L	7-20
Sept. 29	at Atlanta	W	24-10
Oct. 6	Buffalo	L	7-14
Oct. 13	at Denver	L	0-16
Oct. 20	L.A. Chargers	W	23-20
Oct. 27	Tampa Bay	W	27-23
Nov. 3	at Carolina	L	20-30
Nov. 10	Kansas City	W	35-32
Nov. 24	Jacksonville	W	42-20
Dec. 1	at Indianapolis	W	31-17
Dec. 8	at Oakland	W	42-21
Dec. 15	Houston	L	21-24
Dec. 22	New Orleans	L	28-38
Dec. 29	at Houston	W	35-14
Postseason			
Jan. 4	at New England	W	20-13
Jan. 11	at Baltimore	W	28-12
Jan. 19	at Kansas City	L	24-35

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Ryan Tannehill	286	201	2,742	22	6
Marcus Mariota	160	95	1,203	7	2

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Derrick Henry	303	1,540	5.1	16
Dion Lewis	54	209	3.9	0
Ryan Tannehill	43	185	4.3	4

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
A.J. Brown	52	1,051	20.2	8
Corey Davis	43	601	14.0	2
Jonnu Smith	35	439	12.5	3
Adam Humphries	37	374	10.1	2
Tajaé Sharpe	25	329	13.2	4

KICKING: Ryan Succop, 1-6 FGs, 24-25 PAT, 27 points; Cairo Santos, 4-9 FGs, 12-12 PAT, 24 points; Cody Parkey, 3-3 FGs, 5-6 PAT, 14 points

TACKLES: Logan Ryan, 113; Rashaan Evans, 111

SACKS: Harold Landry, 9.0; two tied with 5.0

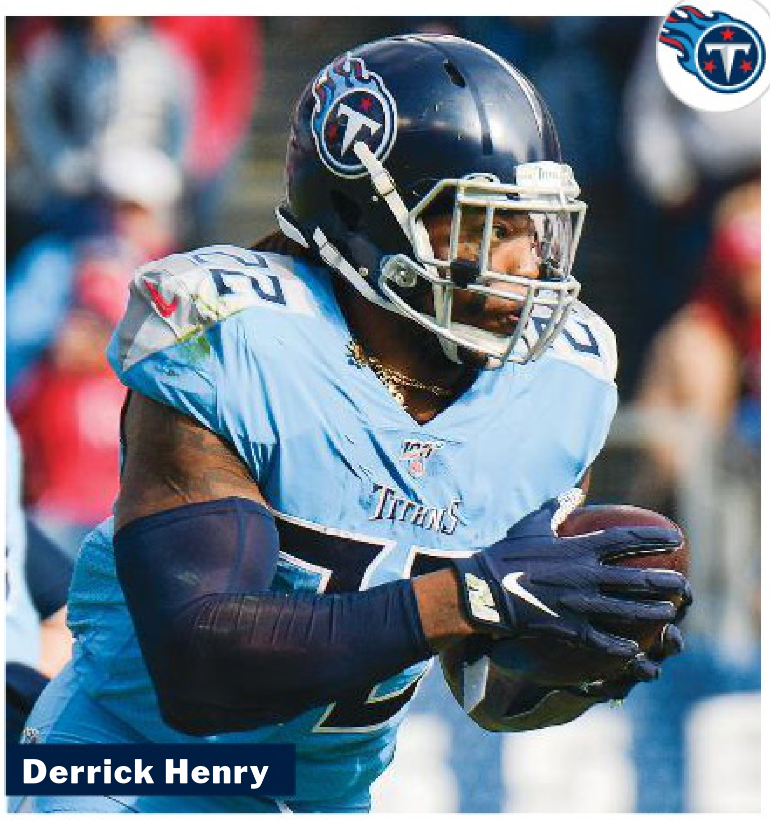
INTERCEPTIONS: Kevin Byard, 5; Logan Ryan, 4

2019 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	362.8	12	5
Rushing	138.9	3	2
Passing	223.9	21	9
Scoring	25.1	10	4
Third Down %	39.1	17	7
Punt Returns	7.7	T12	T7
Kick Returns	21.3	23	13

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	359.5	21	11
Rushing	104.5	12	7
Passing	255.0	24	13
Scoring	20.7	12	7
Interceptions	14	T8	T5
Sacks	43	T13	6
Turnover Differential	+6	9	5

Tannehill, Henry: Matt Hernandez



Derrick Henry

The Titans made Taylor Lewan the highest-paid left tackle in the game in 2018. Is he the best? No. Is he worth the money and headaches? Yes. Expect Lewan to bounce back after last season’s suspension-marred campaign. Massive 6'6", 350-pound rookie right tackle Isaiah Wilson has a high ceiling and floor. Swing tackle Dennis Kelly was one of Robinson’s first moves as GM (remember 2016’s Dorial Green-Beckham trade?), and his versatility is worth 321 pounds in gold. Ben Jones mans the pivot with a passion, but for how much longer?

DEFENSE Losing Casey hurts; he was shipped to Denver for a seventh-round pick in a cost-cutting maneuver. The heir to Casey’s throne in the trenches is 6'4", 305-pound second-year stud Jeffery Simmons, who was immediately disruptive after returning from a knee injury in Week 7 last year. Simmons will be joined by nose tackle DaQuan Jones, free agent signee Jack Crawford and rookie Larrell Murchison.

Trading Casey’s contract ($11.8 mil in 2020) also opened up room on the books for another potential high-dollar acquisition. Jadeveon Clowney’s name has been mentioned, as the former No. 1 overall pick was coached by Vrabel in Houston from 2014-17, and edge rush remains the team’s most glaring need. As it stands, Tennessee will lean on a pass-rushing rotation of third-year man Harold Landry III (nine sacks in 2019), Kamalei Correa and free agent signee Vic Beasley Jr., who led the league with 15.5 sacks in 2016 and this offseason signed a one-year deal worth up to $9.5 million.

Inside linebackers Rashaan Evans and Jayon Brown continue to improve year over year. The dynamic duo will be leaned on heavily to erase any mistakes made around them and make more game-changing splash plays. There is breakout potential for both.

In the secondary, Ryan left in style, picking off Brady’s final pass as a Patriot and scoring the game-sealing TD against his former team. His production as a hybrid slot-corner-blitzer will be tough to replicate; last year, Ryan became just the third player since 2000 with at least four sacks (4.5), four INTs and four forced fumbles. Adoree’ Jackson’s fifth-year option was exercised, and this could finally be the year he takes the leap from solid to spectacular. Jackson’s electric athleticism could also allow him to play both outside and inside, possibly filling Ryan’s role. Malcolm Butler is coming off a season-ending wrist injury. Rookie second-rounder Kristian Fulton is a physical corner and battle-tested from LSU’s title run. Free agent signee Johnathan Joseph is also in the mix at corner.

Center field safety Kevin Byard is among the best ballhawks in football and quite possibly the best player on the team. Heavy hitter Kenny Vaccaro is a perfect match, while Amani Hooker and Dane Cruikshank allow for countless sub-package options. But with Pees gone, who will set those lineups? Vrabel has been coy on the subject of “official” D-coordinator, but new inside linebackers coach and former NFL Coach of the Year Jim Haslett certainly has the chops to be de facto leader of the stop-unit.

SPECIALISTS Punter Brett Kern has made three consecutive Pro Bowls and remains a valuable field-position weapon, especially considering the Titans’ ground-and-pound style. Field-goal kicking was a major problem last year, with four different kickers used and multiple games lost due to routine misses. Greg Joseph looked good in limited action. The return game is in sure hands with rookie Evans, Humphries, Kalif Raymond and even Jackson, if necessary. Expect newly acquired special teams ace Nick Dzubnar to make noise in kick coverage.

FINAL ANALYSIS Amy Adams Strunk has quietly become one of the best owners in the NFL since inheriting the team from late Oilers-Titans founder Bud Adams. Robinson has built a roster with no obvious holes. Vrabel is a star in the coaching ranks after boldly benching his starting QB and outfoxing the greatest coach ever last season. The Titans are the AFC South favorite and a squad no team wants to face in the playoffs. Health permitting, Tennessee is a contender for Super Bowl LV in Tampa.

2020 VETERAN TITANS ROSTER

	QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
17	Tannehill, Ryan	QB	6-4	217	8	Texas A&M	T-Mia-19	D1-Mia-12
5	Woodside, Logan	QB	6-1	213	1	Toledo	FA-19	D7-Cin-18

	RUNNING BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
41	Blasingame, Khari	RB	6-0	233	1	Vanderbilt	FA-19	FA-Min-19
28	Dawkins, Dalyn	RB	5-7	183	1	Colorado State	FA-18	FA-Ten-18
22	Henry, Derrick	RB	6-3	247	4	Alabama	D2c-16	D2c-Ten-16
20	Perry, Senorise	RB	6-0	210	5	Louisville	FA-Buf-20	FA-Chi-14
39	Wilson, Shaun	RB	5-9	185	2	Duke	FA-19	FA-TB-18

	RECEIVERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
13	Batson, Cameron	WR	5-8	175	2	Texas Tech	FA-18	FA-Ten-18
11	Brown, A.J.	WR	6-1	226	1	Ole Miss	D2-19	D2-Ten-19
84	Davis, Corey	WR	6-3	209	3	Western Michigan	D1a-17	D1a-Ten-17
12	Davis, Rashard	WR	5-9	175	1	James Madison	FA-19	FA-Phi-17
86	Firkser, Anthony	TE	6-2	246	2	Harvard	FA-18	FA-NYJ-17
88	Herdman, Cole	TE	6-4	245	1	Purdue	FA-20	FA-Bal-19
83	Hesse, Parker	TE	6-3	261	1	Iowa	FA-19	FA-Ten-19
16	Hollister, Cody	WR	6-4	216	2	Arkansas	FA-19	FA-NE-18
10	Humphries, Adam	WR	5-11	195	5	Clemson	FA-TB-19	FA-TB-15
85	Pruitt, MyCole	TE	6-2	245	4	Southern Illinois	FA-18	D5-Min-15
14	Raymond, Kalif	WR	5-8	182	2	Holy Cross	FA-18	FA-Den-16
81	Smith, Jonnu	TE	6-3	248	3	FIU	D3b-17	D3b-Ten-17
87	Thompson, Trevion	WR	6-2	205	1	Clemson	FA-19	FA-LAC-19

	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
64	Davis, Nate	OL	6-3	316	1	Charlotte	D3-19	D3-Ten-19
75	Douglas, Jamil	C/G	6-4	309	2	Arizona State	FA-18	D4-Mia-15
67	Gennesy, Avery	G/T	6-5	318	1	Texas A&M	FA-20	FA-Jac-17
60	Jones, Ben	C	6-3	308	8	Georgia	FA-Hou-16	D4-Hou-12
71	Kelly, Dennis	T/G	6-8	321	8	Purdue	T-Phi-16	D5-Phi-12
69	Kerin, Zac	G/C	6-4	305	4	Toledo	FA-20	FA-Min-14
77	Lewan, Taylor	T	6-7	309	6	Michigan	D1-14	D1-Ten-14
52	Munyer, Daniel	G/C	6-1	305	3	Colorado	FA-19	FA-KC-15
72	Quessenberry, David	OL	6-5	310	2	San Jose State	FA-18	D6-Hou-13
76	Saffold III, Rodger	G	6-5	325	10	Indiana	FA-LAR-19	D2-LAR-10
70	Sambrailo, Ty	T	6-5	311	5	Colorado State	FA-Atl-20	D2-Den-15

	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
95	Bledsoe, Amani	DL	6-4	280	1	Oklahoma	FA-19	FA-Ten-19
94	Crawford, Jack	DL	6-5	274	8	Penn State	FA-Atl-20	D5-Oak-12
92	Dickerson, Matt	DL	6-5	292	2	UCLA	FA-18	FA-Ten-18
96	Ivie, Joey	DT	6-3	301	1	Florida	FA-19	D7-Dal-17
90	Jones, DaQuan	DL	6-4	322	6	Penn State	D4a-14	D4a-Ten-14
97	Mack, Isaiah	DL	6-1	299	1	Chattanooga	FA-19	FA-Ten-19
98	Simmons, Jeffery	DL	6-4	305	1	Mississippi State	D1-19	D1-Ten-19

	LINEBACKERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
44	Beasley Jr., Vic	OLB	6-3	246	5	Clemson	FA-Atl-20	D1-Atl-15
55	Brown, Jayon	LB	6-0	226	3	UCLA	D5-17	D5-Ten-17
40	Correa, Kamalei	OLB	6-3	241	4	Boise State	T-Bal-18	D2-Bal-16
49	Dzubnar, Nick	LB	6-1	240	5	Cal Poly	FA-LAC-20	FA-LAC-15
54	Evans, Rashaan	LB	6-2	232	2	Alabama	D1-18	D1-Ten-18
93	Gilbert, Reggie	OLB	6-4	260	2	Arizona	T-GB-19	FA-GB-16
57	Harris, Nigel	LB	6-2	225	2	South Florida	FA-18	FA-LAC-17
58	Landry III, Harold	OLB	6-2	252	2	Boston College	D2-18	D2-Ten-18
51	Long, David	LB	5-11	227	1	West Virginia	D6-19	D6-Ten-19
50	Roberson, Derick	OLB	6-3	250	1	Sam Houston St.	FA-19	FA-Ten-19
45	Smith, Josh	LB	6-4	240	1	Vanderbilt	FA-20	FA-Ten-19
42	Walker, D'Andre	OLB	6-2	251	1	Georgia	D5-19	D5-Ten-19
40	Williams, Jordan	OLB	6-4	262	1	Tennessee	FA-19	FA-NYJ-15

	DEFENSIVE BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
21	Butler, Malcolm	CB	5-11	190	6	West Alabama	FA-NE-18	FA-NE-14
31	Byard, Kevin	S	5-11	212	4	Middle Tennessee	D3-16	D3-Ten-16
36	Campbell, Ibraheim	S	5-11	210	5	Northwestern	FA-GB-20	D4-Cle-15
29	Cruikshank, Dane	DB	6-1	209	2	Arizona	D5-18	D5-Ten-18
38	Durden, Kenneth	CB	6-1	180	2	Youngstown State	FA-18	FA-Oak-16
37	Hooker, Amani	DB	5-11	210	1	Iowa	D4-19	D4-Ten-19
25	Jackson, Adoree'	CB	5-11	185	3	USC	D1b-17	D1b-Ten-17
33	Joseph, Johnathan	CB	5-11	186	14	South Carolina	FA-Hou-20	D1-Cin-06
46	Kalu, Joshua	DB	6-0	203	1	Nebraska	FA-18	FA-Ten-18
30	Milton, Chris	CB	5-11	190	4	Georgia Tech	W-Ind-19	FA-Ind-16
20	Orr, Kareem	CB	5-11	195	1	Chattanooga	FA-19	FA-Ten-19
23	Smith, Tye	CB	6-0	195	4	Towson	FA-17	D5-Sea-15
24	Vaccaro, Kenny	S	6-0	214	7	Texas	FA-18	D1-NO-13

	SPECIALISTS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
48	Brinkley, Beau	LS	6-4	260	8	Missouri	FA-12	FA-Ten-12
7	Joseph, Greg	K	6-0	210	2	Florida Atlantic	FA-19	FA-Mia-18
6	Kern, Brett	P	6-2	214	12	Toledo	W-Den-09	FA-Den-08

Scouting the Titans

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP TENNESSEE "Last year, head coach Mike Vrabel made the move that was best for the team and started QB Ryan Tannehill, who had a career revival after leaving Miami. The Titans pounded opponents with the NFL's leading rusher, RB Derrick Henry, while Tannehill was efficient with the football. ... The WR unit stepped up with rookie A.J. Brown leading the team and slot WR Adam Humphries moving the chains, but unfortunately, WR Corey Davis was inconsistent. TE Jonnu Smith is an emerging playmaker, allowing the team to release injury-prone veteran Delanie Walker. ... This was a top-10 OL unit headlined by LT Taylor Lewan, but they let RT Jack Conklin depart in free agency, trusting in Dennis Kelly, who was their No. 3 OT, and first-round pick Isaiah Wilson to battle for the starting spot. ... The DL played well, but they traded longtime leader Jurrell Casey to Denver with high expectations for talented DL Jeffery Simmons to be a disruptive presence. ... The ILBs played well with the emergence of Rashaan Evans and rangy/instinctive linebacker Jayon Brown. ... The CBs were suspect all season, and that inconsistency correlated directly with Adoree' Jackson's career. ... Kevin Byard is one of the best safeties in the NFL and played well with a dependable Kenny Vaccaro. ... They're the best team in the division and should return to the playoffs — unless Tannehill was just a one-year wonder."

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
LB	Vic Beasley Jr.	Atlanta
DL	Jack Crawford	Atlanta
LB	Nick Dzubnar	L.A. Chargers
CB	Johnathan Joseph	Houston

KEY LOSSES -

POS.	PLAYER	2020 TEAM
DT	Jurrell Casey	Denver
T	Jack Conklin	Cleveland
RB	Dion Lewis	N.Y. Giants
QB	Marcus Mariota	Las Vegas
CB	Logan Ryan	Free Agent
WR	Tajaé Sharpe	Minnesota
LB	Cameron Wake	Free Agent
TE	Delanie Walker	Free Agent
LB	Wesley Woodyard	Free Agent

Offseason Depth Chart

OFFENSE

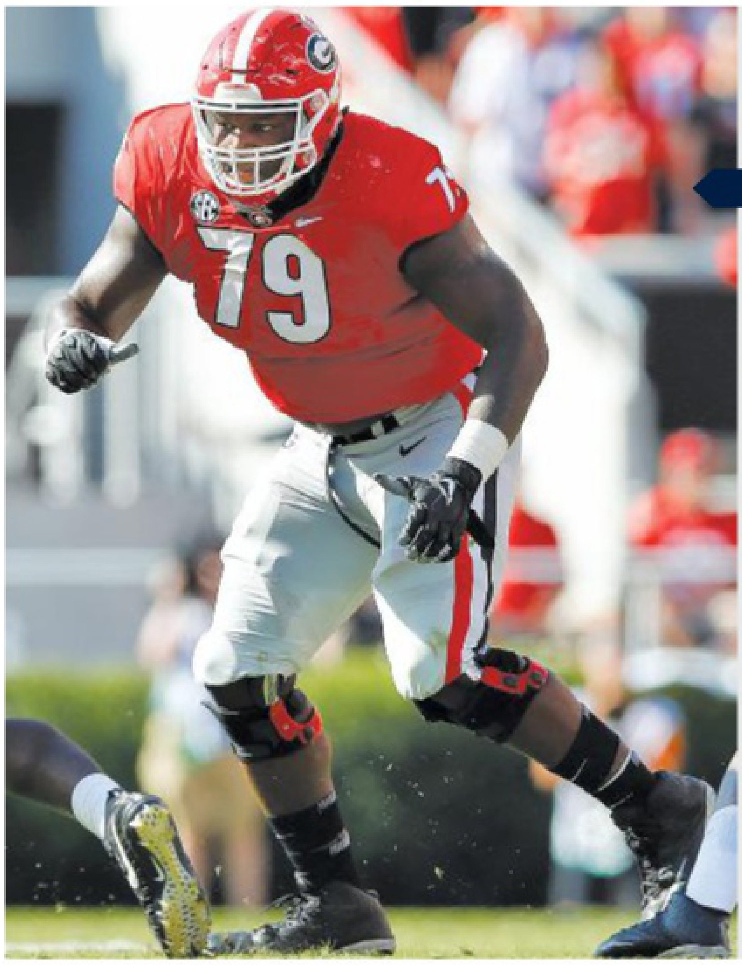
WR	11	A.J. Brown	14	Kalif Raymond
WR	10	Adam Humphries	87	Trevion Thompson
WR	84	Corey Davis	16	Cody Hollister
LT	77	Taylor Lewan	72	David Quessenberry
LG	76	Rodger Saffold III	52	Daniel Munyer
C	60	Ben Jones	75	Jamil Douglas
RG	64	Nate Davis	67	Avery Gennesy
RT	71	Dennis Kelly	79	Isaiah Wilson (R)
TE	81	Jonnu Smith	86	Anthony Firkser
QB	17	Ryan Tannehill	5	Logan Woodside
RB	22	Derrick Henry	32	Darrynton Evans (R)

DEFENSE

DT	98	Jeffery Simmons	92	Matt Dickerson
NT	90	DaQuan Jones	91	Larrell Murchison (R)
DE	94	Jack Crawford	97	Isaiah Mack
OLB	58	Harold Landry III	40	Kamalei Correa
ILB	54	Rashaan Evans	49	Nick Dzubnar
ILB	55	Jayon Brown	51	David Long
OLB	44	Vic Beasley Jr.	93	Reggie Gilbert
CB	25	Adoree' Jackson	26	Kristian Fulton (R)
CB	21	Malcolm Butler	33	Johnathan Joseph
SS	24	Kenny Vaccaro	37	Amani Hooker
FS	31	Kevin Byard	29	Dane Cruikshank

SPECIALISTS

K	7	Greg Joseph	KR	32	Darrynton Evans (R)
P	6	Brett Kern	PR	10	Adam Humphries



Aaron M. Sprecher via AP

Titans *in the Draft* | Grade: B+

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	**Isaiah Wilson**	**OT**	**6-6**	**350**	**Georgia**
2.	Kristian Fulton	CB	5-11	197	LSU
3.	Darrynton Evans	RB	5-10	203	Appalachian State
5.	Larrell Murchison	DT	6-2	297	NC State
7.	Cole McDonald	QB	6-3	215	Hawaii
7.	Chris Jackson	S	5-10	193	Marshall

Isaiah Wilson is a gigantic right tackle with even bigger upside. The Brooklyn, N.Y., native has the enormous frame and fleet feet to be a starter for years to come. Wilson played only two seasons at Georgia and was a draft-eligible redshirt sophomore, so there is still likely untapped potential. Kristian Fulton dealt with a season-long suspension at LSU in 2017, following his tampering with a drug test. Back on the field, Fulton was a key piece to the Bayou Bengals' dominant championship team. Darrynton Evans' 4.41 speed will pair with Derrick Henry to give the Titans a change of pace in the backfield. Evans should also be a threat in the return game, with three TDs and another 97-yard return at App State. Larrell Murchison has a nonstop motor. Cole McDonald's throwing motion needs shortening, but he possesses a toolbox of skills reminiscent of both Marcus Mariota and Ryan Tannehill.

Outside the Huddle

TWO-TONE TOO BLUE One year after Nashville hosted the most successful NFL Draft party ever, Tennessee stole the virtual show during the first-ever quarantine draft. Head coach Mike Vrabel had a motley crew of absurdity at his house. On Thursday night, there was a guy with a bleach-blonde mullet wearing a Vrabel Pro Bowl jersey, a guy wearing a Frozone costume from "The Incredibles" and maybe even a guy going to the bathroom who was caught on camera in a reflection (although that was later denied). Alas, Vrabel cleaned up the fun house on Friday night, sitting solo with only a Titans flag in the background.

MAMA'S HOUSE But Vrabel wasn't the only Titan to set social media abuzz. First-round pick Isaiah Wilson's mother made headlines by snatching up an overeager girlfriend off the lap of her son during the emotional moment immediately following his selection with the No. 29 overall pick. Wilson's girlfriend wanted her 15 minutes of fame. Instead, she caught the wrath of Wilson's mother on a play that might have been called for a 15-yard unnecessary roughness penalty under different circumstances.

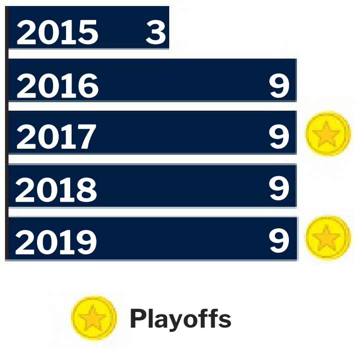
THAT'S MY MOVE! Leading 14–13 against the Patriots in the Wild Card Round of the playoffs, Vrabel used one of Bill Belichick's tricks against him. Vrabel sent out the punt unit on 4th-and-5 with 6:39 left in the game. He then took a delay of game penalty, had his punt unit commit an intentional false start and had fate smile on him when the Patriots committed a neutral-zone infraction. The Titans finally punted with 4:51 left on the clock. All the while, Belichick was losing his mind yelling at the officials over the debatable gamesmanship. Where did Vrabel learn such a questionable tactic? Belichick had used similar loopholes to drain clock and troll the Jets with a 33–0 lead in Week 7.

G.O.A.T. GOSSIP Tom Brady was either using the Titans for leverage or seriously considering signing with Tennessee — a club whose GM was part of the Patriots' scouting department from 2002-13 and whose head coach won three rings as Brady's teammate in New England. Brady fueled the fire by FaceTiming Vrabel while on national TV at a college basketball game. And there were even rumors that Brady and/or wife Gisele Bündchen were scouting local private schools in the Nashville area.

TROPHY CASE New inside linebackers coach Jim Haslett is the only person recognized as a member of the College Football Hall of Fame, as the NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year and as AP NFL Coach of the Year. Haslett attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania, was a standout rookie for the Bills in 1979 and took the Saints from a 3–13 team in 1999 to a 10–6 team upon his arrival in 2000. Haslett also coached a young Vrabel as the defensive coordinator of the Steelers from 1997-99.

BITTERSWEET BUCKEYE Ohio State alum Vrabel didn't stand in the way of former Titans defensive backs coach Kerry Coombs taking over as the new defensive coordinator at Ohio State. But losing both Coombs and retiring Titans D-coordinator Dean Pees in the same offseason is tough.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



NUMBERS TO KNOW

68.1

The Titans allowed 68.1 percent of opposing red zone possessions to become touchdowns, the second-highest rate in the league behind only the Texans.

44.4

Tennessee made just 8-of-18 field goals last year, a league-worst 44.4 percent success rate.

75.6

The Titans made up for it by scoring touchdowns on a league-best 75.6 percent of their red zone possessions.

Denver
BRONCOS

AFC West Forecast: 4

THE ORGANIZATION

Owner: Pat Bowlen
President/CEO: Joe Ellis
President of Football Operations/GM: John Elway
Director of Player Personnel: Matt Russell
Stadium: Empower Field at Mile High (76,125)
Surface: Grass
Website: www.denverbroncos.com
Tickets: 720-258-3333
Training Camp: Paul D. Bowlen Memorial Centre (Dove Valley, Colo.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Vic Fangio
Record With Team: 7-9
Career Record: 7-9
Offensive Coordinator: Pat Shurmur
Defensive Coordinator: Ed Donatell
Special Teams Coordinator: Tom McMahon
Quarterback: Mike Shula
Running Backs: Curtis Modkins
Wide Receivers: Zach Azzanni
Tight Ends: Wade Harman
Offensive Line: Mike Munchak
Defensive Line: Bill Kollar
Linebackers: Reggie Herring
Outside Linebackers: John Pagano
Defensive Backs: Renaldo Hill

This is what hope looks like. The Broncos won four of their final five games, posted a winning home record for the first time since 2016 and, in their seventh attempt since Peyton Manning retired, found their quarterback in Drew Lock. Lock enters his second season with a new coordinator and more weapons around him, creating optimism that the Broncos will end their first streak of three straight losing seasons since the drought of 1963-72.

Lock took over the job on Dec. 1. He brought energy, attitude "and swagger," as left guard Dalton Risner put it. If the new additions improve the offense as expected, this is a playoff team. On this idea, most fans are in Lock step.

OFFENSE A number of factors have created the Broncos' four-year postseason drought, most notably seven starting quarterbacks, five offensive coordinators and three head coaches. Narrow the prism of blame and it rests squarely on the offense.

To address that deficiency, the team took receivers Jerry Jeudy and KJ Hamler and tight end Albert Okwuegbunam with three of their first six draft picks. Overnight, the Broncos have gone from ginger ale to Red Bull. The Broncos needed a boost after ranking 28th in points (17.6) and in passing (194.7 yards per game), 20th in rushing (103.9) and 30th in third-down conversions (31.7 percent) last season. The onus is on new offensive coordinator Pat Shurmur to make the pieces fit.

Central to improvement is microwaving Lock's development. He should match Daniel Jones' rookie season under Shurmur in New York (24 touchdowns, 12 interceptions), at the minimum. Shurmur comes from the West Coast coaching tree — meaning he wants a strong ground game and will not be shy about using three-wide sets. This is salient to why Fangio fired Rich Scangarello and hired Shurmur. The coach wants more creativity and deep strikes. The Broncos ranked 27th in completions of 20-plus yards a year ago. Shurmur's Giants had 10 touchdowns passes that traveled 20-plus yards in the air, compared to three for Denver.

Lock, who finished with seven touchdowns and three interceptions as a rookie, has the arm talent and confidence to take more chances. He also boasts mobility, camouflaging concerns about an offensive line that now includes free agent right guard Graham Glasgow and rookie center Lloyd Cushenberry. Lock was sacked five times in five games, while Joe Flacco and Brandon Allen were dropped 35 times in 11 games.

In the passing game, Jeudy provides a running mate for Pro Bowler Courtland Sutton. Sutton emerged as one of the NFL's big play receivers, averaging 15.4 yards per reception. He is now the alpha male of this group. With a precise route runner in Jeudy, a burner in Hamler and Sutton's talent, it will open the middle of the field for Noah Fant, who set a franchise rookie record for receptions (40) and yards (562) by a tight end.

For Lock to blossom, he needs a solid ground game. The Broncos signed Melvin Gordon III to a two-year deal with $13.5 million guaranteed. He figures to start with Phillip Lindsay complementing him. Gordon has shown prowess in short-yardage situations and against eight defenders in the box. He is a three-down back, having averaged 50 receptions over the last three seasons. Lindsay could become the change-of-pace option and force the Broncos to rely on the hot hand if he's finding creases.

In his second season with Denver, offensive line coach Mike

2020 SCHEDULE

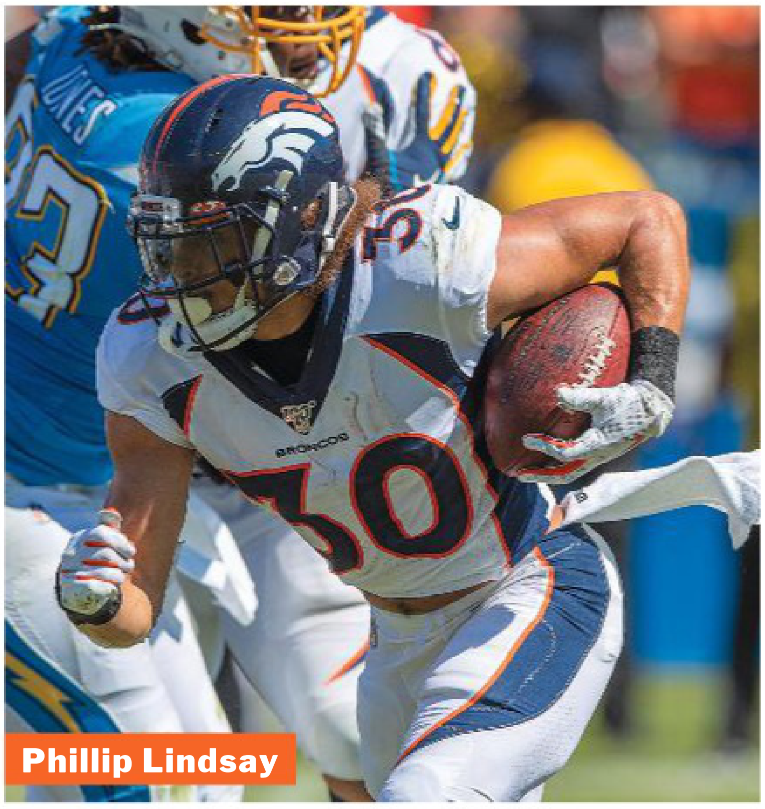
Date	Opponent	Time	2019 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
			2019 NFL RANKINGS				
Sept. 14	Tennessee (Mon.)	10:10	9-7	362.8 (12)	359.5 (21)	25.1 (10)	20.7 (12)
Sept. 20	at Pittsburgh	1:00	8-8	276.8 (30)	304.1 (5)	18.1 (27)	18.9 (t5)
Sept. 27	Tampa Bay	4:25	7-9	397.9 (3)	343.9 (15)	28.6 (t3)	28.1 (29)
Oct. 1	at N.Y. Jets (Thu.)	8:20	7-9	273.0 (32)	323.1 (7)	17.2 (31)	22.4 (16)
Oct. 11	at New England	1:00	12-4	354.0 (15)	275.9 (1)	26.2 (7)	14.1 (1)
Oct. 18	Miami	4:05	5-11	310.0 (27)	397.8 (30)	19.1 (25)	30.9 (32)
Oct. 25	Kansas City	4:25	12-4	379.2 (6)	349.6 (17)	28.2 (5)	19.2 (7)
BYE							
Nov. 8	at Atlanta	1:00	7-9	379.7 (5)	355.8 (20)	23.8 (13)	24.9 (23)
Nov. 15	at Las Vegas	4:05	7-9	363.7 (11)	354.8 (19)	19.6 (24)	26.2 (24)
Nov. 22	L.A. Chargers	4:05	5-11	367.4 (10)	313.1 (6)	21.1 (21)	21.6 (14)
Nov. 29	New Orleans	4:05	13-3	373.9 (9)	333.1 (11)	28.6 (t3)	21.3 (13)
Dec. 6	at Kansas City	8:20	12-4	379.2 (6)	349.6 (17)	28.2 (5)	19.2 (7)
Dec. 13	at Carolina	1:00	5-11	341.8 (19)	374.5 (23)	21.2 (20)	29.4 (31)
Dec.19/20	Buffalo	TBD	10-6	330.2 (24)	298.3 (3)	19.6 (23)	16.2 (2)
Dec.26/27	at L.A. Chargers	TBD	5-11	367.4 (10)	313.1 (6)	21.1 (21)	21.6 (14)
Jan. 3	Las Vegas	4:25	7-9	363.7 (11)	354.8 (19)	19.6 (24)	26.2 (24)

Peter Brouillet

Von Miller

LINEBACKER

Munchak's impact should increase. He made struggling left tackle Garett Bolles look functional over the final month. Right tackle Ja'Wuan James' health remains a critical factor after he played only 63 snaps last season with a knee injury.


Phillip Lindsay

Peter Brouillet

DEFENSE Fangio came to Denver with the reputation of a defensive genius, a "professor," in the words of Pro Bowl linebacker Von Miller. He delivered as promised but only after a disappointing September, when the Broncos became the first team since sacks became an official statistic in 1982 to go three straight games without a sack or a takeaway.

The Broncos yielded 19.8 points per game, 10th best in the league, and ranked first in red zone touchdown percentage. Offseason reinforcements should help despite the loss of a pair of stalwarts in cornerback Chris Harris Jr. and defensive end Derek Wolfe.

The Broncos addressed the trenches, pulling off their best move in landing five-time Pro Bowler Jurrell Casey for a seventh-round pick. In an ideal world, Casey becomes their newest version of DeMarcus Ware, a veteran who leads while still producing on the field. Retaining Shelby Harris on a bargain deal was a pleasant surprise. He found a tepid market but returned after a conversation with Fangio. Harris set a career high in sacks last season after moving from nose tackle to defensive end in the fifth game of the season. With Wolfe gone, it creates opportunities for second-year pro Dre'Mont Jones. Mike Purcell will anchor the nose tackle spot, where he proved effective against the run.

The Broncos decided not to address linebacker help in free agency. Todd Davis returns as a starter and remains a run stuffer. And Alexander Johnson proved to be a revelation, showing strength, size and speed that suggest that a Pro Bowl berth is in his future. Few teams have struggled to cover tight ends as much as the Broncos, but Fangio plans to use more nickel and dime packages to address the issue, pending the health of cornerback Bryce Callahan.

The Broncos replaced Harris by acquiring A.J. Bouye, who fell off last season but is viewed as a better fit for Fangio's read-and-react zone schemes. Callahan's recovery from a second foot surgery would ease concerns in the secondary. If he holds down the slot coverage spot, it will ease the pressure on young corners Duke Dawson Jr. and De'Vante Bausby. The strength of the secondary remains the safety position. Free safety Justin Simmons earned second-team All-Pro honors, his football IQ and athleticism a natural fit for Fangio's calls. Kareem Jackson brings attitude and an edge. In the Broncos' two most impressive wins — at the Chargers and at Houston — Jackson was the best player on the field.

If the Broncos are to take a step forward defensively, it's up to outside linebackers Miller and Bradley Chubb, who is returning from ACL surgery. Miller produced only eight sacks, his lowest total since 2012, but at 31, he believes he can still lead the league in that category. Chubb's impact, if he is healthy, cannot be overstated. He forces teams to make tough decisions in blocking schemes and was starting to take off in Fangio's defense before suffering his knee injury against Jacksonville on Sept. 29.

SPECIALISTS The Broncos made the popular decision to move on from struggling punter Colby Wadman, signing Detroit Lions free agent Sam Martin to a three-year, $7.05 million deal. Kicker Brandon McManus remains as one of only four players left from the Super Bowl 50 team. McManus returned to form last season, converting 29 field goals and 4-of-7 attempts from 50-plus yards. Diontae Spencer breathed life into the Broncos' punt returns, earning Pro Bowl alternate status. Hamler could contribute on kick returns, where he excelled at Penn State.

FINAL ANALYSIS This organization doesn't seek participation ribbons. Anything less than a playoff berth would be a huge disappointment. Their prospects hinge on young offensive starters developing. If the Broncos bump their scoring average past the 20-point mark in Lock's first full season as a starter, they could return to the postseason. Lock has the tools and toys to do it. Now is the time to tailor the attack to his skill set.

2019 RESULTS (7-9)

Sept.	9	at Oakland	L	16-24
Sept.	15	Chicago	L	14-16
Sept.	22	at Green Bay	L	16-27
Sept.	29	Jacksonville	L	24-26
Oct.	6	at L.A. Chargers	W	20-13
Oct.	13	Tennessee	W	16-0
Oct.	17	Kansas City	L	6-30
Oct.	27	at Indianapolis	L	13-15
Nov.	3	Cleveland	W	24-19
Nov.	17	at Minnesota	L	23-27
Nov.	24	at Buffalo	L	3-20
Dec.	1	L.A. Chargers	W	23-20
Dec.	8	at Houston	W	38-24
Dec.	15	at Kansas City	L	3-23
Dec.	22	Detroit	W	27-17
Dec.	29	Oakland	W	16-15

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Joe Flacco	262	171	1,822	6	5
Drew Lock	156	100	1,020	7	3

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Phillip Lindsay	224	1,011	4.5	7
Royce Freeman	132	496	3.8	3
Drew Lock	18	72	4.0	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Courtland Sutton	72	1,112	15.4	6
Noah Fant	40	562	14.1	3
Emmanuel Sanders	30	367	12.2	2
DaeSean Hamilton	28	297	10.6	1
Royce Freeman	43	256	6.0	1

KICKING: Brandon McManus, 29-34 FGs, 25-26 PAT, 112 points

TACKLES: Todd Davis, 134; Two tied with 93

SACKS: Von Miller, 8.0; Derek Wolfe, 7.0

INTERCEPTIONS: Justin Simmons, 4; Kareem Jackson, 2

2019 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	298.6	28	14
Rushing	103.9	20	10
Passing	194.7	28	13
Scoring	17.6	28	14
Third Down %	31.7	30	15
Punt Returns	7.7	T12	T7
Kick Returns	25.4	3	2

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	337.0	12	7
Rushing	111.4	16	9
Passing	225.6	11	8
Scoring	19.8	10	6
Interceptions	10	T25	T14
Sacks	40	T17	8
Turnover Differential	+1	T13	8

Scouting the Broncos

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP DENVER "Top executive John Elway believes in Drew Lock as the starting QB, so this offseason, the goal was to surround him with a framework to be successful. ... RBs Phillip Lindsay and Royce Freeman have been a reliable combo, and they strengthened the unit with division rival RB Melvin Gordon III. ... They have a big-play WR in Courtland Sutton, but he was the only dependable receiving option as slot WR DaeSean Hamilton and last year's first-round pick, athletic TE Noah Fant, were inconsistent, so they added playmaking WR Jerry Jeudy in the first round. ... The OL has improved as a unit because of well-respected position coach Mike Munchak, but LT Garett Bolles has looked like a disappointing first-round pick up to this point in his career. ... After finding a gem last year with DL Dre'Mont Jones and trading for longtime Tennessee Titan DL Jurrell Casey, they let DE Derek Wolfe depart in free agency. They have perhaps the best edge unit in the NFL with elite pass rusher Von Miller and rising star Bradley Chubb, who's coming off an ACL injury. ... Veteran ILB Todd Davis is reliable and led the team in tackles, but overall, the ILB unit is underwhelming. ... They lost star CB Chris Harris to the division rival Chargers but have faith in nickel Bryce Callahan and newly acquired CB A.J. Bouye to fill that void. They franchise tagged star safety Justin Simmons with the optimism of a long-term deal, but they're paying veteran Kareem Jackson $11 million a year, making this one of the highest-paid duos in the NFL. ... Head coach Vic Fangio will have this team ready, but overall, I don't see them making the playoffs nor improving much from last year."

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
CB	A.J. Bouye	Jacksonville
DT	Jurrell Casey	Tennessee
QB	Jeff Driskel	Detroit
RB	Melvin Gordon III	L.A. Chargers
RG	Graham Glasgow	Detroit
P	Sam Martin	Detroit
TE	Nick Vannett	Pittsburgh

KEY LOSSES –

POS.	PLAYER	2020 TEAM
CB	Chris Harris Jr.	L.A. Chargers
FB	Andy Janovich	Cleveland
LS	Casey Kreiter	N.Y. Giants
C	Connor McGovern	N.Y. Jets
S	Will Parks	Philadelphia
DE	Derek Wolfe	Baltimore

Offseason Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR	14	Courtland Sutton	81	Tim Patrick
WR	10	Jerry Jeudy (R)	17	DaeSean Hamilton
LT	72	Garett Bolles	68	Elijah Wilkinson
LG	66	Dalton Risner	75	Quinn Bailey
C	79	Lloyd Cushenberry III (R)	50	Patrick Morris
RG	61	Graham Glasgow	74	Nico Falah
RT	70	Ja'Wuan James	69	Jake Rodgers
TE	87	Noah Fant	85	Albert Okwuegbunam (R)
TE	88	Nick Vannett	82	Jeff Heuerman
QB	3	Drew Lock	9	Jeff Driskel
RB	25	Melvin Gordon III	30	Phillip Lindsay

DEFENSE

LDE	96	Shelby Harris	93	Dre'Mont Jones
NT	98	Mike Purcell	95	Joel Heath
RDE	99	Jurrell Casey	57	DeMarcus Walker
OLB	58	Von Miller	97	Jeremiah Attaochu
ILB	45	Alexander Johnson	47	Josey Jewell
ILB	51	Todd Davis	43	Joe Jones
OLB	55	Bradley Chubb	59	Malik Reed
CB	29	Bryce Callahan	20	Duke Dawson Jr.
CB	21	A.J. Bouye	41	De'Vante Bausby
SS	22	Kareem Jackson	36	Trey Marshall
FS	31	Justin Simmons	39	Kahani Smith (R)

SPECIALISTS

K	8	Brandon McManus	KR	13	KJ Hamler (R)
P	5	Sam Martin	PR	11	Diontae Spencer

2020 VETERAN BRONCOS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
9	Driskel, Jeff	QB	6-4	235	4	Louisiana Tech	FA-Det-20	D6-SF-16
3	Lock, Drew	QB	6-4	228	1	Missouri	D2b-19	D2b-Den-19
4	Rypien, Brett	QB	6-2	202	1	Boise State	FA-19	FA-Den-19

RUNNING BACKS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
83	Beck, Andrew	FB	6-3	255	1	Texas	W-NE-19	FA-NE-19
39	Cox, Jeremy	RB	6-0	226	1	Old Dominion	FA-19	FA-LAC-19
28	Freeman, Royce	RB	6-0	238	2	Oregon	D3a-18	D3a-Den-18
25	Gordon III, Melvin	RB	6-1	215	5	Wisconsin	FA-LAC-20	D1-LAC-15
30	Lindsay, Phillip	RB	5-8	190	2	Colorado	FA-18	FA-Den-18
33	Muhammad, Khalfani	RB	5-7	174	1	California	FA-18	D7-Ten-17

RECEIVERS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
12	Benson, Trinity	WR	6-0	180	1	East Central	FA-19	FA-Den-19
19	Brown, Fred	WR	6-1	195	1	Mississippi State	FA-19	FA-Ind-17
80	Butt, Jake	TE	6-6	250	3	Michigan	D5a-17	D5a-Den-17
87	Fant, Noah	TE	6-4	249	1	Iowa	D1-19	D1-Den-19
89	Fort, Austin	TE	6-4	244	1	Wyoming	FA-19	FA-Den-19
84	Fumagalli, Troy	TE	6-6	248	2	Wisconsin	D5-18	D5-Den-18
17	Hamilton, DaeSean	WR	6-1	206	2	Penn State	D4b-18	D4b-Den-18
82	Heuerman, Jeff	TE	6-5	255	5	Ohio State	D3-15	D3-Den-15
16	McKnight, Kelvin	WR	5-8	186	1	Samford	FA-19	FA-Den-19
81	Patrick, Tim	WR	6-4	212	2	Utah	FA-17	FA-Bal-17
11	Spencer, Diontae	WR	5-8	170	1	McNeese State	W-Pit-19	FA-LAR-14
14	Sutton, Courtland	WR	6-4	216	2	SMU	D2-18	D2-Den-18
88	Vannett, Nick	TE	6-6	261	4	Ohio State	FA-Pit-20	D3b-Sea-16
15	Winfree, Juwann	WR	6-3	215	1	Colorado	D6-19	D6-Den-19

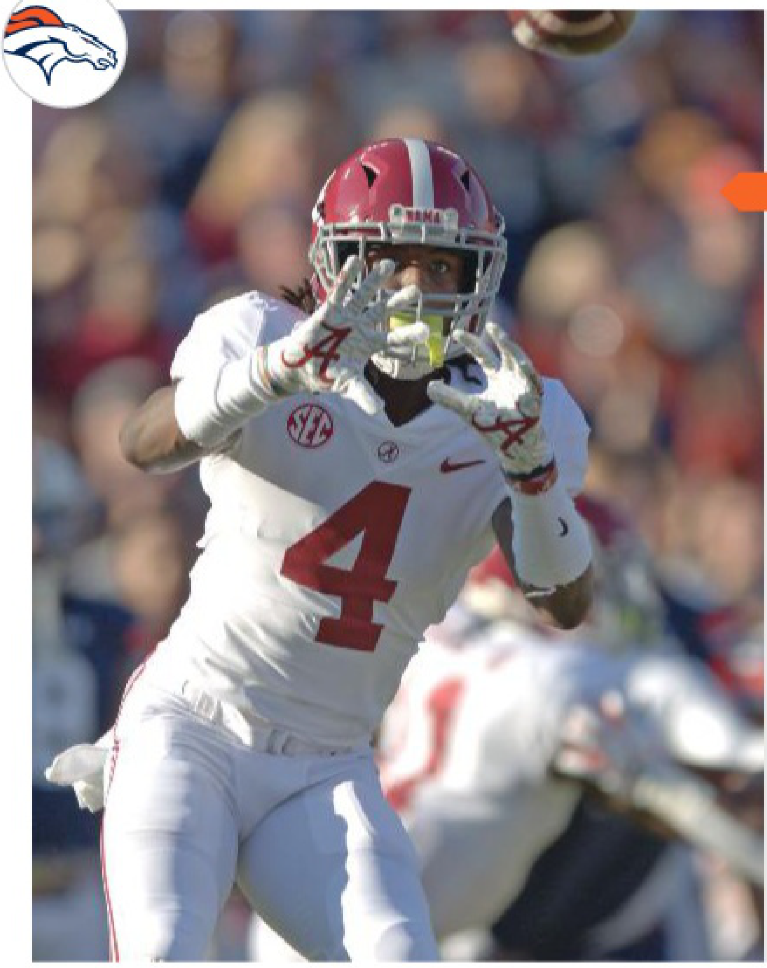
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
76	Anderson, Calvin	T	6-5	300	1	Texas	FA-19	FA-NE-19
75	Bailey, Quinn	G/T	6-6	323	1	Arizona State	FA-19	FA-Den-19
72	Bolles, Garett	T	6-5	300	3	Utah	D1-17	D1-Den-17
74	Falah, Nico	G/C	6-4	301	2	USC	FA-18	FA-Ten-18
61	Glasgow, Graham	C/G	6-6	310	4	Michigan	FA-Det-20	D3-Det-16
70	James, Ja'Wuan	T	6-6	312	6	Tennessee	FA-Mia-19	D1-Mia-14
63	Jones, Tyler	G/T	6-3	306	1	NC State	FA-20	FA-NYJ-19
50	Morris, Patrick	G/C	6-3	300	1	TCU	W-Pit-19	FA-Pit-18
66	Risner, Dalton	G	6-5	312	1	Kansas State	D2a-19	D2a-Den-19
69	Rodgers, Jake	T	6-6	320	2	Eastern Washington	FA-19	D7-Atl-15
71	Schlottmann, Austin	G/C	6-6	300	1	Texas Christian	FA-18	FA-Den-18
68	Wilkinson, Elijah	G/T	6-6	329	3	Massachusetts	FA-17	FA-Den-17

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
99	Casey, Jurrell	DT	6-1	305	9	USC	T-Ten-20	D3-Ten-11
56	Covington, Christian	DT	6-2	300	5	Rice	FA-Dal-20	D6b-Hou-15
92	Harris, Jonathan	DL	6-5	295	1	Lindenwood	W-Chi-19	FA-Chi-19
96	Harris, Shelby	DE	6-2	290	5	Illinois State	FA-17	D7-LV-14
95	Heath, Joel	DT	6-6	302	4	Michigan State	W-Hou-20	FA-Hou-16
93	Jones, Dre'Mont	DE	6-3	281	1	Ohio State	D3-19	D3-Den-19
77	Peko, Kyle	NT	6-1	305	4	Oregon State	FA-19	FA-Den-16
98	Purcell, Mike	DL	6-3	328	5	Wyoming	FA-19	FA-SF-13
57	Walker, DeMarcus	DE	6-4	280	3	Florida State	D2-17	D2-Den-17

LINEBACKERS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
97	Attaochu, Jeremiah	OLB	6-3	252	6	Georgia Tech	FA-19	D2-LAC-14
53	Carney, Malik	OLB	6-2	251	1	North Carolina	FA-19	FA-Det-19
55	Chubb, Bradley	OLB	6-4	275	2	NC State	D1-18	D1-Den-18
91	Crawford, Tre'	LB	6-3	235	1	UAB	FA-19	FA-Atl-19
51	Davis, Todd	ILB	6-1	230	6	Sacramento State	W-NO-14	FA-NO-14
52	Hollins, Justin	LB	6-5	248	1	Oregon	D5-19	D5-Den-19
47	Jewell, Josey	ILB	6-2	236	2	Iowa	D4a-18	D4a-Den-18
45	Johnson, Alexander	ILB	6-2	255	2	Tennessee	FA-18	FA-Den-18
43	Jones, Joe	ILB	6-0	231	3	Northwestern	FA-17	FA-Dal-17
58	Miller, Von	OLB	6-3	250	9	Texas A&M	D1-11	D1-Den-11
59	Reed, Malik	OLB	6-2	235	1	Nevada	FA-19	FA-Den-19
54	Watson, Josh	ILB	6-2	240	1	Colorado State	FA-19	FA-Den-19

DEFENSIVE BACKS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
41	Bausby, De'Vante	CB	6-2	190	4	Pittsburg State	FA-19	FA-KC-15
21	Bouye, A.J.	CB	6-0	191	7	UCF	T-Jac-20	FA-Hou-13
29	Callahan, Bryce	CB	5-9	188	5	Rice	FA-Chi-19	FA-Chi-15
20	Dawson Jr., Duke	CB	5-10	198	2	Florida	T-NE-19	D2-NE-18
27	Harris, Davontae	CB	5-11	200	2	Illinois State	FA-19	D5-Cin-18
49	Holder, Alijah	DB	6-2	188	1	Stanford	FA-19	FA-Den-19
22	Jackson, Kareem	S	5-10	183	10	Alabama	FA-Hou-19	D1-Hou-10
37	Locke, P.J.	S	5-10	202	1	Texas	FA-19	FA-Pit-19
36	Marshall, Trey	S	6-0	207	2	Florida State	FA-18	FA-Den-18
31	Simmons, Justin	S	6-2	202	4	Boston College	D3-16	D3-Den-16
39	Smith, Kahani	S/CB	6-1	190	1	UTEP	FA-19	FA-Den-19
38	Taylor, Shakial	CB	5-11	175	1	Kansas	W-Ind-19	FA-Ind-19
26	Yiadom, Isaac	CB	6-1	190	2	Boston College	D3b-18	D3b-Den-18

SPECIALISTS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
46	Bobenmoyer, Jacob	LS	6-2	235	1	Northern Colorado	FA-20	FA-Den-20
42	Farnsworth, Wes	LS	6-1	240	1	Nevada	FA-19	FA-Mia-19
5	Martin, Sam	P	6-1	211	7	Appalachian State	FA-Det-20	D5b-Det-13
8	McManus, Brandon	K	6-3	201	6	Temple	T-NYG-14	FA-Ind-13



Paul Abell

Broncos *in the Draft* | Grade: B

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	**Jerry Jeudy**	**WR**	**6-1**	**193**	**Alabama**
2.	KJ Hamler	WR	5-9	178	Penn State
3.	Michael Ojemudia	CB	6-1	200	Iowa
3.	Lloyd Cushenberry III	C	6-3	312	LSU
3.	McTelvin Agim	DL	6-3	309	Arkansas
4.	Albert Okwuegbunam	TE	6-5	258	Missouri
5.	Justin Strnad	OLB	6-3	238	Wake Forest
6.	Netane Muti	OG	6-3	315	Fresno State
7.	Tyrie Cleveland	WR	6-2	209	Florida
7.	Derrek Tuszka	OLB	6-4	251	North Dakota State

The Broncos have had enough of getting lapped by the Chiefs. Offensive speed was the theme, starting with receiver Jerry Jeudy, who brings elite speed and cutting ability. The Broncos doubled up with burner KJ Hamler, whose ability to overcome drop issues and start in the slot could make this an elite class. Center Lloyd Cushenberry III continued the trend of selecting captains. He should start from Day One. Tight end Albert Okwuegbunam caught 17 touchdown passes from Drew Lock in their two years together at Missouri. The Broncos chose to go with skill position players over a left tackle, passing on Josh Jones and Ezra Cleveland in the second round, believing neither would start as rookies.

Outside the Huddle

MAKING CONNECTIONS Broncos head coach Vic Fangio lives football. He has spent four decades coaching, but last year was his first at the helm. His way of relating to an entire team required more nuance. He became more comfortable with those interactions after Year One. He attended a University of Colorado basketball game with Phillip Lindsay, a CU alum. And he was at a handful of Nuggets games, including once with linebacker Bradley Chubb.

WIN, LOSE, DREW Drew Lock spent the stay-at-home phase of life in Kansas City with his parents. He maintained a throwing program and spent time studying film and digesting offensive coordinator Pat Shurmur's new offense. Lock understands what it means to be the Broncos quarterback, the highest-profile position in the state. "I think a good QB should be scared of letting himself down. You know all the work he has done to get to this point. You can't just let it go to waste," Lock says. "I think the best ones remember how many other people you could let down by not being at your best and invested 100 percent."

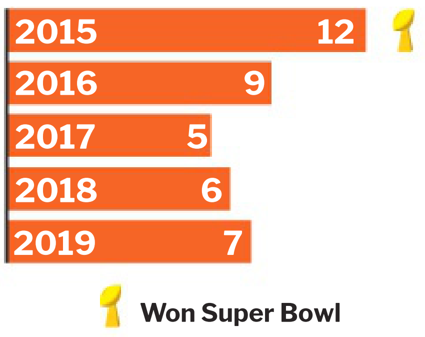
RISNER UP Broncos left guard Dalton Risner made the Pro Football Writers All-Rookie Team. So, that's cool. Um, so what, Risner said. He revealed much bigger goals this offseason. "I am not proud of that honor. People bring it up, and I try not to be rude. That's not what I am after. I want to just dominate. I thought I had a good year, but (bleep), I wasn't All-Pro. I wasn't in the Pro Bowl. That's not cool with me," Risner said. "By no means did I dominate every single game. That's what I want to do — put guys in the ground. I want to be an All-Pro for the Broncos. I don't want to play for anyone else. I want to be an All-Pro 10-plus years here. Some might say that's too lofty, but that's what I am after. I am not going to be satisfied until I am there."

WILDERNESS WORKOUT Linebacker Alexander Johnson would work as a personal trainer if he were not in the NFL. When gyms around the country shut down because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Johnson ran into the wilderness. He bench-pressed logs, threw large rocks and used fallen tree trunks for squats. "I have always been comfortable outside working out and walking on trails. I found the perfect little spot. I didn't think it would go viral as it did. Granted, I know how people said (fictional fighter) Rocky worked out. I had done that plenty of times before. I did something similar and people liked it. It was pretty cool."

VON VS. VIRUS Von Miller felt like he was taking the necessary precautions. He kept visitors to his house at a minimum, but he tested positive for the coronavirus in April, leaving him "shocked." Miller used steam room sessions to accelerate his recovery. It was a scary time for Miller because he has dealt with asthma and allergies his entire life.

STEPPING UP With schools going to virtual classrooms, it created an issue for many students dependent on reduced-cost or free lunch programs. Broncos free safety Justin Simmons and kicker Brandon McManus were among players who donated money to pay for meals for students.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



NUMBERS TO KNOW

39.1

The Broncos had the toughest red zone defense in the NFL, allowing a touchdown on only 39.1 percent of their opponents' red zone visits.

47.0

Denver punted on 47.0 percent of its offensive drives, the second-highest rate in the NFL.

4.6

Drew Lock's average completion length of 4.6 yards was third lowest among qualifying QBs per NFL Next Gen Stats.

Kansas City
CHIEFS

AFC West Forecast: 1

THE ORGANIZATION

Chairman/CEO: Clark Hunt
President: Mark Donovan
General Manager: Brett Veach
Director of Football Administration: Brandt Tilis
Stadium: Arrowhead Stadium (76,416)
Surface: Grass
Website: www.chiefs.com
Tickets: 888-99-CHIEF (24433)
Training Camp: Missouri Western State University (St. Joseph, Mo.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Andy Reid
Record With Team: 77-35
Career Record: 207-128-1
Offensive Coordinator: Eric Bieniemy
Defensive Coordinator: Steve Spagnuolo
Assistant Head Coach/Special Teams Coordinator: Dave Toub
Quarterbacks/Passing Game Coordinator: Mike Kafka
Running Backs: Deland McCullough
Wide Receivers: Greg Lewis
Tight Ends: Tom Melvin
Offensive Line: Andy Heck
Run Game Coordinator/Defensive Line: Brendan Daly
Linebackers: Matt House
Outside Linebackers: Britt Reid
Defensive Backs: Dave Merritt
Defensive Backs/Cornerbacks: Sam Madison

It took 50 years for the Chiefs to win the franchise's second Super Bowl, and after head coach Andy Reid's Hall of Fame-clinching breakthrough, the band is back together to try and do it again. The Chiefs believe they are just getting started adding to that Lombardi collection. Kansas City returns 20 of 22 starters from the Super Bowl and should contend for the crown as long as QB Patrick Mahomes is healthy.

A record-setting offense got more explosive through the draft, and a defense that found its sea legs midway through Steve Spagnuolo's first season as coordinator should continue to improve. The Chiefs — from Reid and Mahomes to defensive leaders Tyrann Mathieu and Frank Clark to owner Clark Hunt and GM Brett Veach — are hungry for more.

OFFENSE Mahomes is the NFL's supreme talent, an MVP in his first season as a starter and a Super Bowl champion the next. With WR Sammy Watkins back on a restructured deal and the addition of RB Clyde Edwards-Helaire, the Chiefs' blitzkrieg offense should be even more potent — potentially on a generational level.

WR Tyreek Hill remains a preeminent deep threat, with blazing speed and an insane ability to track Mahomes' downfield rockets. Travis Kelce, the only tight end in NFL history with four straight 1,000-yard seasons, remains a terror at the intermediate level, but the addition of Edwards-Helaire adds a more dynamic catch-and-run threat underneath, especially in the screen game.

Edwards-Helaire draws comparisons to former Eagles great Brian Westbrook, and few offensive minds are better at scheming matchups to get a running back the ball in space than Reid. Remember how incredible the Chiefs' offense was in 2018 with Kareem Hunt in the backfield? Expect that, but with a more explosive backfield passing-catching option in Edwards-Helaire — an ideal scheme fit and perfect complement to RB Damien Williams, who will continue to have a major role in the offense.

Watkins, who restructured his contract to free up $5 million in salary-cap space, and second-year WR Mecole Hardman bring additional game-breaking ability, so you'll have to forgive opposing defensive coordinators for their night terrors during Chiefs week.

While Watkins has underwhelmed during the regular season in Kansas City, he's been clutch in the postseason and remains a chain-mover from the slot. Hardman, who had only 26 catches as a rookie after entering the league relatively unpolished, should improve with a full season under his belt. His 20.7-yard average per reception, highest in the NFL among players with at least 10 catches, and seven total touchdowns (six receiving and one kickoff return) provide a glimpse of his ability.

Free agent addition Ricky Seals-Jones adds another weapon at tight end with Demarcus Robinson and Byron Pringle providing depth at receiver.

Up front, the Chiefs return sturdy veteran tackles Eric Fisher and Mitchell Schwartz, but the interior may get an overhaul. Nick Allegretti, a 2019 draft pick, figures to push Austin Reiter for the starting center job, while a healthy Martinas Rankin and 2020 third-round pick Lucas Niang will compete inside along with veteran free-agent addition Mike Remmers to supplant Andrew Wylie and Laurent Duvernay-Tardif at the guard spots. Rankin impressed in limited action last season before going down with a torn ACL. He also provides tackle depth along with Remmers, Niang and Jackson Barton, whom the Chiefs poached from the Colts' practice squad last November.

2020 SCHEDULE

2019 NFL RANKINGS

Date		Opponent	Time	2019 Record	Total Offense		Total Defense		Scoring Offense		Scoring Defense	
Sept.	10	Houston (Thu.)	8:20	10-6	362.0	(13)	388.3	(28)	23.6	(14)	24.1	(19)
Sept.	20	at L.A. Chargers	4:25	5-11	367.4	(10)	313.1	(6)	21.1	(21)	21.6	(14)
Sept.	28	at Baltimore (Mon.)	8:15	14-2	407.6	(2)	300.6	(4)	33.2	(1)	17.6	(3)
Oct.	4	New England	4:25	12-4	354.0	(15)	275.9	(1)	26.2	(7)	14.1	(1)
Oct.	11	Las Vegas	1:00	7-9	363.7	(11)	354.8	(19)	19.6	(24)	26.2	(24)
Oct.	15	at Buffalo (Thu.)	8:20	10-6	330.2	(24)	298.3	(3)	19.6	(23)	16.2	(2)
Oct.	25	at Denver	4:25	7-9	298.6	(28)	337.0	(12)	17.6	(28)	19.8	(10)
Nov.	1	N.Y. Jets	1:00	7-9	273.0	(32)	323.1	(7)	17.2	(31)	22.4	(16)
Nov.	8	Carolina	1:00	5-11	341.8	(19)	374.5	(23)	21.2	(20)	29.4	(31)
	BYE											
Nov.	22	at Las Vegas	8:20	7-9	363.7	(11)	354.8	(19)	19.6	(24)	26.2	(24)
Nov.	29	at Tampa Bay	4:25	7-9	397.9	(3)	343.9	(15)	28.6	(t3)	28.1	(29)
Dec.	6	Denver	8:20	7-9	298.6	(28)	337.0	(12)	17.6	(28)	19.8	(10)
Dec.	13	at Miami	1:00	5-11	310.0	(27)	397.8	(30)	19.1	(25)	30.9	(32)
Dec.	20	at New Orleans	4:25	13-3	373.9	(9)	333.1	(11)	28.6	(t3)	21.3	(13)
Dec.	27	Atlanta	1:00	7-9	379.7	(5)	355.8	(20)	23.8	(13)	24.9	(23)
Jan.	3	L.A. Chargers	1:00	5-11	367.4	(10)	313.1	(6)	21.1	(21)	21.6	(14)

Patrick Mahomes

QUARTERBACK

2019 RESULTS (12-4)

Sept. 8	at Jacksonville	W	40-26
Sept. 15	at Oakland	W	28-10
Sept. 22	Baltimore	W	33-28
Sept. 29	at Detroit	W	34-30
Oct. 6	Indianapolis	L	13-19
Oct. 13	Houston	L	24-31
Oct. 17	at Denver	W	30-6
Oct. 27	Green Bay	L	24-31
Nov. 3	Minnesota	W	26-23
Nov. 10	at Tennessee	L	32-35
Nov. 18	at L.A. Chargers	W	24-17
Dec. 1	Oakland	W	40-9
Dec. 8	at New England	W	23-16
Dec. 15	Denver	W	23-3
Dec. 22	at Chicago	W	26-3
Dec. 29	L.A. Chargers	W	31-21
Postseason			
Jan. 12	Houston	W	51-31
Jan. 19	Tennessee	W	35-24
Feb. 2	vs. San Francisco	W	31-20

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Patrick Mahomes	484	319	4,031	26	5
Matt Moore	91	59	659	4	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Damien Williams	111	498	4.5	5
LeSean McCoy	101	465	4.6	4
Patrick Mahomes	43	218	5.1	2
Darrel Williams	41	141	3.4	3

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Travis Kelce	97	1,229	12.7	5
Tyreek Hill	58	860	14.8	7
Sammy Watkins	52	673	12.9	3
Mecole Hardman	26	538	20.7	6

KICKING: Harrison Butker, 34-38 FGs, 45-48 PAT, 147 points

TACKLES: Anthony Hitchens, 88; Damien Wilson, 81

SACKS: Chris Jones, 9.0; Frank Clark, 8.0

INTERCEPTIONS: Tyrann Mathieu, 4; Juan Thornhill, 3

2019 TEAM STATS

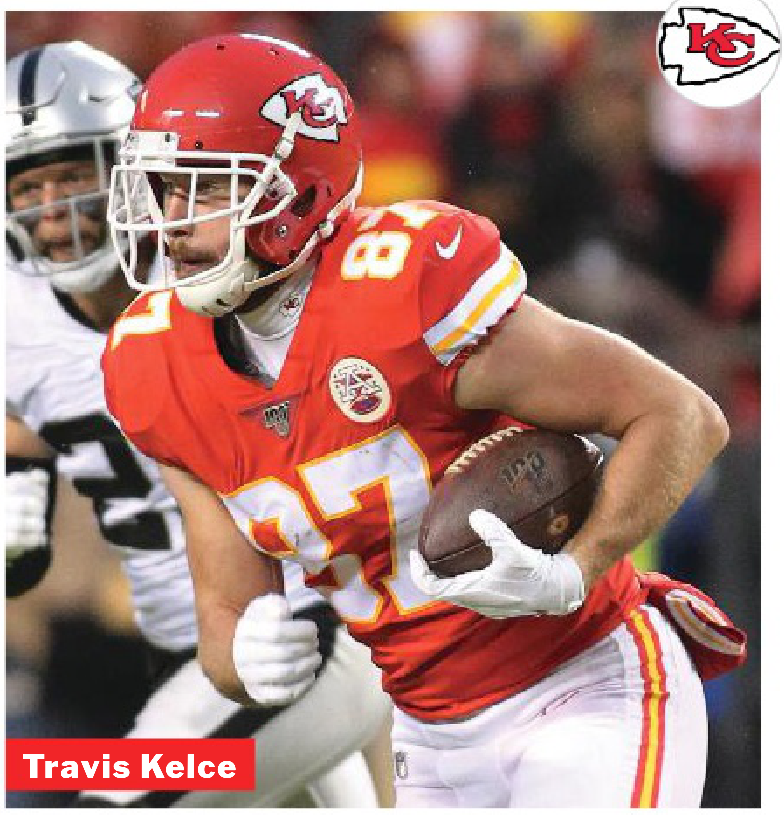
Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	379.2	6	2
Rushing	98.1	23	11
Passing	281.1	5	1
Scoring	28.2	5	2
Third Down %	47.6	1	1
Punt Returns	6.9	19	12
Kick Returns	25.1	5	4

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	349.6	17	9
Rushing	128.2	26	12
Passing	221.4	8	7
Scoring	19.2	7	5
Interceptions	16	T5	3
Sacks	45	11	4
Turnover Differential	+8	T7	T3

Mahomes: Matt Hernandez; Kelce: Tim Umphrey

DEFENSE It took the defense half the season a year ago to establish solid footing under Spagnuolo, especially with DE Clark battling a neck injury. But the D won't need two months to settle in this time around.

Safety Mathieu, who was brought in last offseason to rejuvenate the defense and reset the culture, was the team's MVP. Spagnuolo turned Mathieu into the defense's Swiss army knife — using him as a blitzer and in coverage at all levels. Mathieu and Clark helped remake the Chiefs' defense in their image — gritty, swaggy and never satisfied.


Travis Kelce

Clark and DT Chris Jones, whom the Chiefs franchise-tagged, combined for 17 sacks and 34 pressures last season as a ferocious inside-out combination. Both are elite players and in their prime as pass rushers.

Veteran DE Alex Okafor, who missed the last six games in 2019, is a liability against the run, but his five sacks also demonstrate his pass-rush value, which will be needed to offset the loss of Emmanuel Ogbah in free agency.

The emergence of DE Tanoh Kpassagnon last season was a pleasant surprise. Now, even more is expected after a breakout 2019 that included 4.0 sacks and 11 pressures. Demone Harris, who was signed off the Ravens' practice squad, and fifth-round pick Michael Danna from Michigan, need time to develop as productive edge players.

Inside, DT Derrick Nnadi remains an unsung hero, leading the line with 48 tackles as the top run-stuffing option and perfect complement to Jones' disruptive, sometimes risk-taking style. The rotation also includes DT Mike Pennel, who showed a knack for big plays in key moments after signing midseason. Second-year DT Khalen Saunders has crazy athleticism but needed a season to adjust from the FCS level.

Pass coverage is simply not a strength for MLB Anthony Hitchens or SLB Damien Wilson. Hitchens' production plummeted in 2019 with the scheme change — down from 135 tackles to 88, which still led the team — but his even keel is an asset in the locker room, and Wilson has a home as a strongside thumper. Second-round pick Willie Gay Jr. from Mississippi State needs to pick up Spagnuolo's system quickly and lock down the weakside linebacker job to fix KC's coverage issues. He's a speedy and fluid athlete with impressive range and ball skills for his size.

On the back end, Mathieu and second-year FS Juan Thornhill are a formidable pair. Thornhill had an excellent rookie season — 58 tackles, three picks and five pass breakups — but he missed the playoffs after tearing an ACL in Week 17 and may not be available to start the season. The Chiefs will count on Daniel Sorensen and Armani Watts for depth.

Starting cornerbacks Charvarius Ward and Bashaud Breeland are serviceable. Losing Kendall Fuller is a blow, but second-year CB Rashad Fenton projects as a fine replacement at nickel back. Antonio Hamilton, who came over from the Giants, and two rookie draft picks with intriguing athleticism, Louisiana Tech speedster L'Jarius Sneed and uber-confident Tulane grad Thakarius "Bopete" Keyes, add depth at corner.

SPECIALISTS Harrison Butker and James Winchester are entrenched at kicker and long snapper, but the Chiefs decided to move on from the longest-tenured player in franchise history, punter Dustin Colquitt. After 15 seasons, Kansas City, which saved $2 million against the salary cap by releasing Colquitt, will let undrafted rookie Tommy Townsend from Florida and former Notre Dame punter Tyler Newsome battle in training camp for the job. Hardman was a Pro Bowl return specialist as a rookie.

FINAL ANALYSIS No offense to Reid's signature press-conference line, but the "time's yours" right now, Andy. The road will be tougher. Denver and Las Vegas have built up their offensive arsenals in hopes of halting Kansas City's four-year reign atop the AFC West, but the addition of a seventh playoff team all but ensures Mahomes and company will get another crack at the postseason. Bottom line: It shouldn't shock anyone if the Chiefs are the first repeat Super Bowl champions since the 2003-04 Patriots.

2020 VETERAN CHIEFS ROSTER

	QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
4	Henne, Chad	QB	6-3	222	11	Michigan	FA-Jac-18	D2b-Mia-08
15	Mahomes, Patrick	QB	6-3	230	3	Texas Tech	D1-17	D1-KC-17
8	Ta'amu, Jordan	QB	6-3	214	1	Ole Miss	FA-20	FA-Hou-19

	RUNNING BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
40	Lovett, John	FB	6-3	225	1	Princeton	FA-19	FA-KC-19
30	McGuire, Elijah	RB	5-10	214	3	UL Lafayette	FA-19	D6-NYJ-17
42	Sherman, Anthony	FB	5-10	242	9	Connecticut	T-Ari-13	D5-Ari-11
34	Thompson, Darwin	RB	5-8	200	1	Utah State	D6b-19	D6b-KC-19
24	Washington, DeAndré	RB	5-8	210	4	Texas Tech	FA-LV-20	D5-LV-16
26	Williams, Damien	RB	5-11	224	6	Oklahoma	FA-18	FA-Mia-14
31	Williams, Darrel	RB	5-11	224	2	LSU	FA-18	FA-KC-18

	RECEIVERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
80	Davis, Felton	WR	6-3	211	1	Michigan State	FA-19	FA-KC-19
12	Dieter, Gehrig	WR	6-3	207	2	Alabama	FA-17	FA-KC-17
1	Fortson, Jody	WR	6-6	230	1	Valdosta State	FA-19	FA-KC-19
17	Hardman, Mecole	WR	5-10	187	1	Georgia	D2a-19	D2a-KC-19
10	Hill, Tyreek	WR	5-10	185	4	West Alabama	D5b-16	D5b-KC-16
48	Keizer, Nick	TE	6-4	251	1	Grand Valley State	FA-19	FA-Bal-18
87	Kelce, Travis	TE	6-5	260	7	Cincinnati	D3a-13	D3a-KC-13
13	Pringle, Byron	WR	6-1	203	2	Kansas State	FA-18	FA-KC-18
11	Robinson, Demarcus	WR	6-1	203	4	Florida	D4c-16	D4c-KC-16
83	Seals-Jones, Ricky	TE	6-5	243	3	Texas A&M	FA-Cle-20	FA-Ari-17
14	Watkins, Sammy	WR	6-1	211	6	Clemson	FA-LAR-18	D1-Buf-14
82	Yelder, Deon	TE	6-4	255	2	Western Kentucky	FA-18	FA-NO-18

	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
73	Allegretti, Nick	C/G	6-4	320	1	Illinois	D7-19	D7-KC-19
68	Barton, Jackson	T	6-7	302	1	Utah	FA-19	D7-Ind-19
76	Duvernay-Tardif, Laurent	G	6-5	321	6	McGill	D6b-14	D6b-KC-14
72	Fisher, Eric	T	6-7	315	7	Central Michigan	D1-13	D1-KC-13
60	Hunter, Ryan	G	6-3	316	1	Bowling Green	FA-18	FA-KC-18
74	Rankin, Martinas	G/T	6-5	311	2	Mississippi State	T-Hou-19	D3-Hou-18
62	Reiter, Austin	C	6-3	300	4	South Florida	W-Cle-18	D7-Cle-15
75	Remmers, Mike	T	6-5	308	7	Oregon State	FA-NYG-20	FA-Den-12
71	Schwartz, Mitchell	T	6-5	320	8	California	FA-16	D2-Cle-12
70	Senat, Greg	T	6-6	305	2	Wagner	W-Bal-19	D6-Bal-18
77	Wylie, Andrew	G	6-6	309	2	Eastern Michigan	FA-17	FA-Ind-17

	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
	Charlton, Taco	DE	6-6	270	3	Michigan	FA-Mia-20	D1-Dal-17
55	Clark, Frank	DE	6-3	260	5	Michigan	T-Sea-19	D2-Sea-15
52	Harris, Demone	DE	6-4	272	1	Buffalo	FA-19	FA-TB-18
96	Hoyett, Braxton	DT	6-2	302	1	Mississippi State	FA-19	FA-Ten-19
95	Jones, Chris	DT	6-6	310	4	Mississippi State	D2-16	D2-KC-16
92	Kpassagnon, Tanoh	DE	6-7	289	3	Villanova	D2-17	D2-KC-17
93	Lawrence, Devaroe	DT	6-2	295	1	Auburn	FA-19	FA-NO-17
91	Nnadi, Derrick	DT	6-1	312	2	Florida State	D3-18	D3-KC-18
97	Okafor, Alex	DE	6-4	261	7	Texas	FA-NO-19	D4a-Ari-13
64	Pennel, Mike	DT	6-4	330	6	Colorado St.-Pueblo	FA-19	FA-GB-14
99	Saunders, Khalen	DT	6-0	324	1	Western Illinois	D3-19	D3-KC-19
57	Speaks, Breeland	DE	6-3	285	2	Ole Miss	D2-18	D2-KC-18
79	Ward, Tim	DE	6-6	255	1	Old Dominion	FA-19	FA-KC-19

	LINEBACKERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
47	Harris, Darius	LB	6-2	238	1	Middle Tennessee	FA-19	FA-KC-19
53	Hitchens, Anthony	LB	6-0	235	6	Iowa	FA-Dal-18	D4-Dal-14
56	Niemann, Ben	LB	6-2	235	2	Iowa	FA-18	FA-KC-18
44	O'Daniel, Dorian	LB	6-1	220	2	Clemson	D3b-18	D3b-KC-18
43	Smith, Emmanuel	LB	6-2	240	1	Vanderbilt	FA-19	FA-Atl-18
54	Wilson, Damien	LB	6-0	245	5	Minnesota	FA-Dal-19	D4-Dal-15

	DEFENSIVE BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
21	Breeland, Bashaud	CB	5-11	195	6	Clemson	FA-GB-19	D4-Was-14
30	Brown, Alex	DB	5-11	170	1	South Carolina St.	FA-19	FA-SF-19
27	Fenton, Rashad	CB	5-11	188	1	South Carolina	D6a-19	D6a-KC-19
20	Hamilton, Antonio	CB	6-0	195	4	South Carolina St.	FA-NYG-20	FA-LV-16
38	Lammons, Chris	CB	5-10	190	1	South Carolina	FA-19	FA-Atl-18
32	Mathieu, Tyrann	S	5-9	190	7	LSU	FA-Hou-19	D3-Ari-13
49	Sorensen, Daniel	S	6-2	208	6	BYU	FA-14	FA-KC-14
22	Thornhill, Juan	S	6-0	205	1	Virginia	D2b-19	D2b-KC-19
35	Ward, Charvarius	CB	6-1	198	2	Middle Tennessee	T-Dal-18	FA-Dal-18
23	Watts, Armani	S	5-11	205	2	Texas A&M	D4-18	D4-KC-18

	SPECIALISTS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
7	Butker, Harrison	K	6-4	205	3	Georgia Tech	FA-17	FA-Car-17
6	Newsome, Tyler	P	6-3	213	1	Notre Dame	FA-20	FA-LAC-19
41	Winchester, James	LS	6-3	240	5	Oklahoma	FA-15	FA-Phi-13

Scouting the Chiefs

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP KANSAS CITY "QB Patrick Mahomes played at a sensational level in head coach/play-caller Andy Reid's system. Mahomes displayed precise offensive execution and improvisation, showing he can make any throw on the field with his rocket arm. ... RB Damien Williams showed his value during the playoffs, but the Chiefs had the 23rd-ranked rushing attack, so they drafted RB Clyde Edwards-Helaire in the first round. ... Tyreek Hill is a rare athlete and is improving each year as a WR. They brought back WR Sammy Watkins, but look for dynamic playmaker WR Mecole Hardman to play a bigger role this season. This passing attack flows through TE Travis Kelce, who is arguably the best TE in the NFL. The OL is sub-par, but the athletic ability of Mahomes disguised it. ... In Steve Spagnuolo's first season as the defensive coordinator, he elevated this unit. They're bringing back star DL Chris Jones with optimism of a getting a long-term deal done, and the trade for star pass rusher Frank Clark looked like it paid off, with quality depth behind them. ... They have some young pieces at ILB but needed an impact player, so they drafted Willie Gay Jr. ... They lost CB Kendall Fuller in free agency, but they were able to bring back an underrated veteran, CB Bashaud Breeland. Expect second-year CB Rashad Fenton to step up as well. Versatile DB Tyrann Mathieu is the heartbeat of this defense, and rangy safety Juan Thornhill played well, as this duo combined for seven INTs. ... Harrison Butker is one of the best kickers in the NFL. ... With so many starters returning, expect this team to have a good shot at repeating."

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
CB	Antonio Hamilton	N.Y. Giants
OL	Mike Remmers	N.Y. Giants
TE	Ricky Seals-Jones	Cleveland
RB	DeAndre Washington	Las Vegas

KEY LOSSES −

POS.	PLAYER	2020 TEAM
TE	Blake Bell	Dallas
P	Dustin Colquitt	Free Agent
DB	Kendall Fuller	Washington
S	Jordan Lucas	Chicago
DE	Emmanuel Ogbah	Miami
LB	Reggie Ragland	Detroit
OG	Stefen Wisniewski	Pittsburgh

Offseason Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR	10	Tyreek Hill	11	Demarcus Robinson
WR	14	Sammy Watkins	17	Mecole Hardman
LT	72	Eric Fisher	75	Mike Remmers
LG	74	Martinas Rankin	67	Lucas Niang (R)
C	62	Austin Reiter	73	Nick Allegretti
RG	76	Laurent Duvernay-Tardif	77	Andrew Wylie
RT	71	Mitchell Schwartz	68	Jackson Barton
TE	87	Travis Kelce	83	Ricky Seals-Jones
QB	15	Patrick Mahomes	4	Chad Henne
RB	26	Damien Williams	25	Clyde Edwards-Helaire (R)
FB	42	Anthony Sherman	40	John Lovett

DEFENSE

DE	92	Tanoh Kpassagnon	97	Alex Okafor
DT	95	Chris Jones	99	Khalen Saunders
DT	91	Derrick Nnadi	64	Mike Pennel
DE	55	Frank Clark	52	Demone Harris
WLB	50	Willie Gay Jr. (R)	47	Darius Harris
MLB	53	Anthony Hitchens	56	Ben Niemann
SLB	54	Damien Wilson	44	Dorian O'Daniel
CB	21	Bashaud Breeland	38	L'Jarius Sneed (R)
CB	35	Charvarius Ward	20	Antonio Hamilton
SS	32	Tyrann Mathieu	49	Daniel Sorensen
FS	22	Juan Thornhill	23	Armani Watts

SPECIALISTS

K	7	Harrison Butker	KR	17	Mecole Hardman
P		Tommy Townsend (R)	PR	17	Mecole Hardman

Ken Murray/Icon via AP

Chiefs *in the Draft* | Grade: B

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	**Clyde Edwards-Helaire**	**RB**	**5-7**	**207**	**LSU**
2.	Willie Gay Jr.	ILB	6-1	243	Mississippi State
3.	Lucas Niang	OT	6-6	315	TCU
4.	L'Jarius Sneed	CB	6-0	192	Louisiana Tech
5.	Michael Danna	DE	6-2	261	Michigan
7.	Bopete Keyes	CB	6-1	202	Tulane

The reigning Super Bowl champs surgically addressed the roster's biggest needs. Head coach Andy Reid will scheme up nightmare matchups with Clyde Edwards-Helaire, a dynamic open-field runner who is lethal as a pass-catcher, to bolster an already explosive offense. The Chiefs also shored up the biggest needs on defense, a linebacker with coverage skills and cornerback depth. Willie Gay Jr. has first-round talent and was the draft's most athletic linebacker not named Isaiah Simmons, while L'Jarius Sneed, who ran a 4.37-second 40-yard dash at the NFL Scouting Combine, and the long-armed Bopete Keyes inject athleticism on the boundary and the size Steve Spagnuolo covets.

Outside the Huddle

GM PATRICK MAHOMES The afternoon of the NFL Draft's opening round, Chiefs GM Brett Veach had settled on his top choice for the No. 32 pick. Veach told Andy Reid and owner Clark Hunt around 4 p.m. which way he was leaning, but he also ran the pick by one more person — Patrick Mahomes. Veach texted Mahomes, "Give me a name. Don't think about it." Mahomes replied, "Clyde." Seven hours later, the Chiefs chose LSU running back Clyde Edwards-Helaire — to the delight of Veach, Reid and their star QB.

COMEBACK KIDS The Chiefs came back from a double-digit deficit in every postseason game last year, including a 31–20 Super Bowl LIV victory against the 49ers. Kansas City trailed 24–0 against the Texans in the AFC Divisional Game, a 51–31 win; 17–7 against the Titans in the AFC Championship Game, a 35–24 victory; and 20–10 midway through the fourth quarter in the Super Bowl.

SUPER CELEBRATION After winning the AFC Championship Game to secure his second Super Bowl appearance as a head coach, Andy Reid "ate a cheeseburger and went to bed." Cheeseburgers are a Friday pregame staple for Reid, but — fittingly, in upset fashion given the Chiefs' postseason run — he skipped the celebratory cheeseburger the Monday after Super Bowl LIV, opting instead for some of Kansas City's famous barbecue. "I haven't met one burnt end that I didn't like," Reid joked.

OPPONENT SCORING SLUMP Quick, name the NFL's best scoring defense after Week 10 last season. If you didn't say the Chiefs, you're wrong. Kansas City allowed only 11.5 points per game after getting carved up Nov. 10 in Nashville. Baltimore, which allowed 13.3 points on average during that span, was the only team within a touchdown (minus the extra point).

ARRIVING IN STYLE Fullback Anthony Sherman, whom Andy Reid once called "a sausage with hands," has become famous for his training camp entrances. It started simple — denim overalls (and nothing else) one year, a leather jacket and "jorts" the next, then a Team USA wrestling singlet — but it went to a new level last year, when he showed up in a fire suit and helmet behind the wheel of one of NASCAR driver Clint Bowyer's stock cars. If Sherman doesn't rappel from a Blackhawk into camp this year, Chiefs fans will be understandably disappointed.

MOVE OVER, TB12 Mahomes has become an omnipotent commercial presence, hawking everything from sunglasses to shampoo to ketchup, but he also recently knocked Tom Brady from the all-important NFL merch perch. Mahomes now has the league's top-selling jersey, according to the NFL Players Association.

"BOPETE" AIMS TO BE BEST Chiefs seventh-round pick Thakarius Keyes — who prefers to go by the nickname given to him by his grandmother, "Bopete" — doesn't lack for confidence. "I know that I got drafted in the seventh round, but I'm just ready to get on the field and do everything to show everyone that I can potentially be the best corner in the league soon." He also doesn't lack for arm length or physicality, two traits Kansas City loves in its corners.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2015	11	★
2016	12	★
2017	10	★
2018	12	★
2019	12	🏆

★ Playoffs 🏆 Won Super Bowl

NUMBERS TO KNOW

7

Kansas City was the only team not to lose a game by more than seven points in 2019.

21.8

The Chiefs ended 21.8 percent of their offensive drives with a field goal, the highest rate in the NFL.

7.5

Only the Cowboys had a higher average net yards per pass attempt as an offense than the 7.5 Kansas City averaged last year.

Las Vegas RAIDERS

AFC West Forecast: 2

THE ORGANIZATION

Owner: Mark Davis
President: Marc Badain
General Manager: Mike Mayock
Senior VP/Director of Football Administration: Tom Delaney
Stadium: Allegiant Stadium (65,000)
Surface: Grass
Website: www.raiders.com
Tickets: 800-RAIDERS (724-3377)
Training Camp: Las Vegas Raiders Napa Valley Training Complex (Napa, Calif.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Jon Gruden
Record With Team: 49-47
Career Record: 106-102
Offensive Coordinator: Greg Olson
Defensive Coordinator: Paul Guenther
Assistant Head Coach/Special Teams Coordinator: Rich Bisaccia
Quarterbacks: TBD
Running Backs: Kirby Wilson
Wide Receivers: Edgar Bennett
Tight Ends: Frank Smith
Offensive Line: Tom Cable
Defensive Line: Rod Marinelli
Linebackers: David Lippincott
Defensive Backs: Jim O'Neil

As the Raiders begin their new journey in Las Vegas, they segue into Chapter Two of a Jon Gruden and Mike Mayock partnership that has overseen nearly a complete overhaul of the depleted roster Gruden inherited upon taking over in 2018. The results of the reconstruction are expected to be felt on the scoreboard, where young, athletic playmakers playing alongside veteran quarterback Derek Carr are being counted on to lift the Raiders offense from methodical to explosive.

Defensively, the Raiders added much-needed skill and experience at linebacker, safety and in the interior of the defensive line through free agency. With a group of second-year defenders consisting of DE Clelin Ferrell, DE Maxx Crosby, CB Trayvon Mullen and S Johnathan Abram, and the additions of a pair of rookie cornerbacks in Damon Arnette and Amik Robertson, the Raiders appear to be on their way to fielding a much more competent defense.

As Carr heads into his seventh year, he may finally have what he's been deprived of his entire career: an offense replete with weapons and a defense capable of giving him a legitimate shot to win games. The pressure is on Carr to take this franchise to the next level.

OFFENSE To Gruden's and Mayock's credit, they helped the Raiders take a decisive step forward last year with the offensive tinkering, and it put them in position to add the remaining pieces in free agency and the draft. The additions of RT Trent Brown and LG Richie Incognito in free agency turned the offensive line from one of the worst to a top-10 unit when healthy. Rookie running back Josh Jacobs set a franchise rookie rushing record; tight end Darren Waller was a revelation in his third season; and rookie slot receiver Hunter Renfrow defied his fifth-round draft status to catch 49 for 605 and become a third-down security blanket for Carr.

The Raiders, though, lacked explosiveness, so while they gained the 11th-most yards per game in the NFL at 363.7 last year, they were No. 24 in points at 19.6.

That has the potential to change after a draft that reeled in Alabama speedster Henry Ruggs III; South Carolina WR Bryan Edwards, a big, physical target; and Swiss army knife Lynn Bowden Jr. from Kentucky, a sort of Percy Harvin-type asset who led the SEC in all-purpose yards per game last year after being forced to move from wide receiver to quarterback early in the season and ended up rushing for 1,468 yards.

"I think the bigger picture for both Jon and I was, 'How do we get more dynamic?'" Mayock says. "You look at our offense last year, I think Jon did an outstanding job. We used two or three tight ends just about more than anyone else in the league. Darren Waller came out of nowhere to catch 90 balls. Josh Jacobs came out of nowhere to gain 1,200 yards. I think Jon did an outstanding job without us having significant wide receiver production. And when Jon and I sat down in the offseason, it was about trying to get more dynamic."

The Raiders also added veteran tight end Jason Witten, who will be a role model for Waller and second-year tight end Foster Moreau, and WR Nelson Agholor, who adds dependability and production.

Gruden stands to benefit from the new additions, as his playbook will begin to open and expand more with the inclusion of so many different skill sets. In Ruggs, he has the long-ball go-to threat he thought he had in Antonio Brown last year, but also a skilled game-changer who can attack defenses deep, on slants, in bubble-screen situations and as a ball

Jacobs: Tim Umphrey

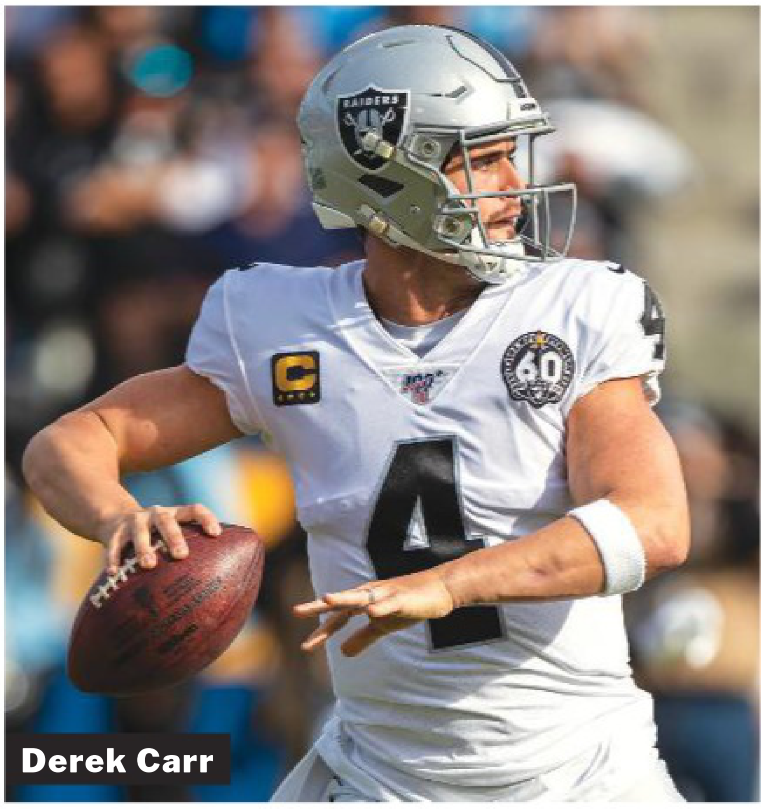
2020 SCHEDULE

2019 NFL RANKINGS

Date	Opponent	Time	2019 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 13	at Carolina	1:00	5-11	341.8 (19)	374.5 (23)	21.2 (20)	29.4 (31)
Sept. 21	New Orleans (Mon.)	8:15	13-3	373.9 (9)	333.1 (11)	28.6 (t3)	21.3 (13)
Sept. 27	at New England	1:00	12-4	354.0 (15)	275.9 (1)	26.2 (7)	14.1 (1)
Oct. 4	Buffalo	4:25	10-6	330.2 (24)	298.3 (3)	19.6 (23)	16.2 (2)
Oct. 11	at Kansas City	1:00	12-4	379.2 (6)	349.6 (17)	28.2 (5)	19.2 (7)
BYE							
Oct. 25	Tampa Bay	8:20	7-9	397.9 (3)	343.9 (15)	28.6 (t3)	28.1 (29)
Nov. 1	at Cleveland	1:00	6-10	340.9 (22)	361.6 (22)	20.9 (22)	24.6 (20)
Nov. 8	at L.A. Chargers	4:05	5-11	367.4 (10)	313.1 (6)	21.1 (21)	21.6 (14)
Nov. 15	Denver	4:05	7-9	298.6 (28)	337.0 (12)	17.6 (28)	19.8 (10)
Nov. 22	Kansas City	8:20	12-4	379.2 (6)	349.6 (17)	28.2 (5)	19.2 (7)
Nov. 29	at Atlanta	1:00	7-9	379.7 (5)	355.8 (20)	23.8 (13)	24.9 (23)
Dec. 6	at N.Y. Jets	1:00	7-9	273.0 (32)	323.1 (7)	17.2 (31)	22.4 (16)
Dec. 13	Indianapolis	4:05	7-9	327.4 (25)	346.8 (16)	22.6 (t16)	23.3 (18)
Dec. 17	L.A. Chargers (Thu.)	8:20	5-11	367.4 (10)	313.1 (6)	21.1 (21)	21.6 (14)
Dec.26/27	Miami	TBD	5-11	310.0 (27)	397.8 (30)	19.1 (25)	30.9 (32)
Jan. 3	at Denver	4:25	7-9	298.6 (28)	337.0 (12)	17.6 (28)	19.8 (10)

Josh Jacobs

RUNNING BACK


Derek Carr

carrier. And with defensive focus now turning his way, it should mean more room for Waller, Jacobs, Renfrow and Tyrell Williams to operate.

Mostly, it means that Carr has a full complement of assets to tap into, something he has not had in his six seasons with the Raiders. Keep in mind that the team added Marcus Mariota in free agency. The plan is for him to be Carr's backup, creating the best quarterback room in recent Raiders history.

DEFENSE The Raiders signed 13 players in free agency. Seven of those players and the biggest chunk of their salary cap space were devoted to defense, where an infusion of talent was needed at all three levels after a lost season in 2019.

It's not that the Raiders were completely devoid of talent and production. Crosby, a fourth-round pick, had 10 sacks as a rookie, and fellow rookie Ferrell showed promise in setting the edge of the Raiders defensive line. Mullen, a second-round pick from Clemson, locked down one cornerback spot with a strong finish to his rookie season, and while Abram missed all but one game of his rookie season due to a shoulder injury, he showed enough during his time on the field that he has a chance to be an impact strong safety.

The problem was that there just wasn't enough talent, especially at linebacker, where the Raiders were continually exploited. They addressed that in a major way by adding the best inside linebacker in free agency in Rams veteran Cory Littleton, a three-down backer who will add dependability as both a run stopper and pass defender, as well as Bears emerging linebacker Nick Kwiatkoski, who, like Littleton, can excel as both a run and pass defender. Training camp will decide who lines up next to the newcomers, with Nicholas Morrow and Marquel Lee among the possibilities.

The addition of Cowboys defensive tackle Maliek Collins creates more depth by pushing P.J. Hall to a reserve role. When the Raiders are in base defense, Collins will play alongside Maurice Hurst, Crosby and Ferrell, although known-passing situations could push Ferrell inside with free agent defensive end Carl Nassib coming off the edge. That formation, under the tutelage of new defensive line coach Rod Marinelli, has a chance to wreak havoc and improve on the 32 sacks the team mustered last year.

Rookie cornerback Arnette, who was graded as one of the best press-cover corners in the draft, is expected to challenge for a starting spot opposite Mullen, although the Raiders still have high hopes for second-year cornerback Isaiah Johnson. Robertson could forge a role for himself among a group that includes slot corner Lamarcus Joyner, Nevin Lawson and Keisean Nixon. Mullen and Arnette profile as old-school Raiders bump-and-run cornerbacks — a requirement for second-year defensive coordinator Paul Guenther's 4-3 defense to run optimally — and that might be felt in the pass rush, as the defensive front could have more time to get to the quarterback.

Abram, a fearless hitter, is being counted on to bounce back from his lost rookie season, and the plan is for him and free agent pick up Damarious Randall to man the two safety spots, with free agent addition Jeff Heath and veteran Erik Harris as the primary backups.

SPECIALISTS Placekicker Daniel Carlson faltered down the stretch in 2019 and finished with seven misses among his 26 field goal attempts. The Raiders added undrafted free agent Dominik Eberle from Utah State to create competition. Punter AJ Cole averaged 46.0 yards per punt last season. Ruggs and Bowden are expected to add an immediate shot in the arm as kickoff and punt returners, respectively.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Kansas City Chiefs rule the AFC West, and they aren't going anywhere anytime soon. But Gruden and Mayock are following a plan that makes sense, and for the first time in years, there is a feeling of direction and genuine progress. They have not closed the gap on the Chiefs significantly, but they are drawing nearer to other teams in the AFC. This is a big year for Carr, who can solidify himself as an upper-echelon quarterback overseeing a talented young offense. If he can position the Raiders as the second-best team in the division, that could be enough to reach the playoffs.

2019 RESULTS (7-9)

Sept. 9	Denver	W	24-16
Sept. 15	Kansas City	L	10-28
Sept. 22	at Minnesota	L	14-34
Sept. 29	at Indianapolis	W	31-24
Oct. 6	Chicago	W	24-21
Oct. 20	at Green Bay	L	24-42
Oct. 27	at Houston	L	24-27
Nov. 3	Detroit	W	31-24
Nov. 7	L.A. Chargers	W	26-24
Nov. 17	Cincinnati	W	17-10
Nov. 24	at N.Y. Jets	L	3-34
Dec. 1	at Kansas City	L	9-40
Dec. 8	Tennessee	L	21-42
Dec. 15	Jacksonville	L	16-20
Dec. 22	at L.A. Chargers	W	24-17
Dec. 29	at Denver	L	15-16

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Derek Carr	513	361	4,054	21	8

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Josh Jacobs	242	1,150	4.8	7
DeAndre Washington	108	387	3.6	3
Jalen Richard	39	145	3.7	0
Derek Carr	27	82	3.0	2

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Darren Waller	90	1,145	12.7	3
Tyrell Williams	42	651	15.5	6
Hunter Renfrow	49	605	12.4	4
Jalen Richard	36	323	9.0	0
DeAndre Washington	36	292	8.1	0

KICKING: Daniel Carlson, 19-26 FGs, 34-36 PAT, 91 points

TACKLES: Tahir Whitehead, 108; Erik Harris, 74

SACKS: Maxx Crosby, 10.0; Benson Mayowa, 7.0

INTERCEPTIONS: Erik Harris, 3; five tied with 1

2019 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	363.7	11	4
Rushing	118.3	13	7
Passing	245.4	9	4
Scoring	19.6	24	10
Third Down %	43.8	7	4
Punt Returns	7.0	T17	11
Kick Returns	23.2	11	6

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	354.8	19	10
Rushing	98.1	8	5
Passing	256.7	25	14
Scoring	26.2	24	14
Interceptions	9	29	16
Sacks	32	T24	12
Turnover Differential	-2	21	11

Carr: Peter Brouillet

Scouting the Raiders

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP LAS VEGAS "Last year, the offense was built around their rushing attack, with rookie RB Josh Jacobs and FB Alec Ingold leading the way. We saw QB Derek Carr (21 TDs, eight INTs) improve in his second year with Jon Gruden, but Carr appeared uneasy, like he hasn't developed chemistry with his new playmakers yet. The WR unit got better with the addition of rookie speedster Henry Ruggs III to complement WR Tyrell Williams and slot WR Hunter Renfrow. Quietly, the Raiders have one of the best TE units with Darren Waller, Foster Moreau and the addition of Jason Witten. ... This is one of the highest-paid OL units, with a stout interior but average production from both OT spots. ... Defensively, they're in the bottom half of the league, but they made some free agent signings with two new starting ILBs in Nick Kwiatkoski and athletic Cory Littleton. They expect more from last year's top-five pick, DE Clelin Ferrell, but found a gem with DE Maxx Crosby. ... CB Trayvon Mullen can take away bigger receivers, and they drafted feisty Damon Arnette to play opposite of him. With enforcing safety Johnathan Abram returning from injury and the addition of Damarious Randall, they should get better production on the back end. ... Carr must elevate his play in Year Three, or else Gruden will give another QB the opportunity to lead this team."

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
WR	Nelson Agholor	Philadelphia
DL	Maliek Collins	Dallas
S	Jeff Heath	Dallas
G	Eric Kush	Cleveland
LB	Nick Kwiatkoski	Chicago
LB	Cory Littleton	L.A. Rams
QB	Marcus Mariota	Tennessee
DE	Carl Nassib	Tampa Bay
TE	Nick O'Leary	Jacksonville
S	Damarious Randall	Cleveland
DL	Daniel Ross	Dallas
TE	Jason Witten	Dallas

KEY LOSSES −

POS.	PLAYER	2020 TEAM
S	Karl Joseph	Cleveland
DE	Benson Mayowa	Seattle
RB	DeAndre Washington	Kansas City
LB	Tahir Whitehead	Carolina

Offseason Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR	11	Henry Ruggs III (R)	89	Bryan Edwards (R)
WR	16	Tyrell Williams	12	Zay Jones
WR	13	Hunter Renfrow	15	Nelson Agholor
LT	74	Kolton Miller	75	Brandon Parker
LG	64	Richie Incognito	71	Denzelle Good
C	61	Rodney Hudson	69	Eric Kush
RG	66	Gabe Jackson	76	John Simpson (R)
RT	77	Trent Brown	72	David Sharpe
TE	83	Darren Waller	82	Jason Witten
QB	4	Derek Carr	8	Marcus Mariota
RB	28	Josh Jacobs	33	Lynn Bowden Jr. (R)

DEFENSE

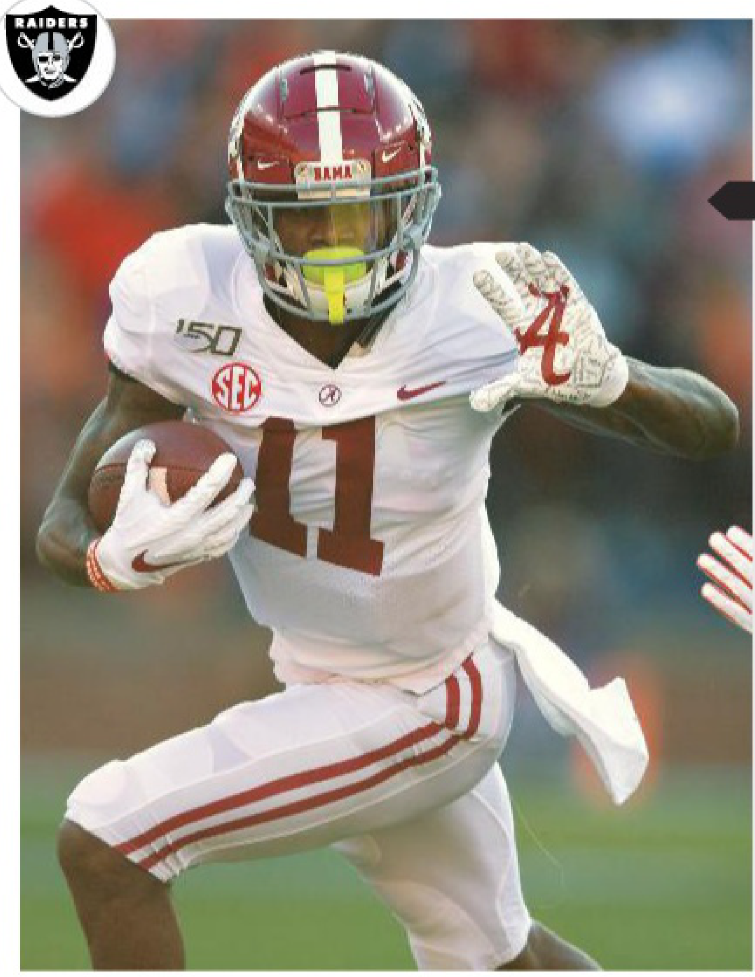
DE	96	Clelin Ferrell	94	Carl Nassib
DT	73	Maurice Hurst	90	Johnathan Hankins
DT	97	Maliek Collins	92	P.J. Hall
DE	98	Maxx Crosby	99	Arden Key
LB	44	Nick Kwiatkoski	54	Ukeme Eligwe
LB	42	Cory Littleton	52	Marquel Lee
LB	50	Nicholas Morrow	58	Kyle Wilber
CB	20	Damon Arnette (R)	31	Isaiah Johnson
CB	27	Trayvon Mullen	41	Amik Robertson (R)
FS	24	Johnathan Abram	38	Jeff Heath
SS	23	Damarious Randall	25	Erik Harris

SPECIALISTS

K	2	Daniel Carlson	KR	30	Jalen Richard
P	6	AJ Cole	PR	30	Jalen Richard

2020 VETERAN RAIDERS ROSTER

	QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
4	Carr, Derek	QB	6-3	210	6	Fresno State	D2-14	D2-LV-14
8	Mariota, Marcus	QB	6-4	222	5	Oregon	FA-Ten-20	D1-Ten-15
3	Peterman, Nathan	QB	6-2	225	3	Pittsburgh	FA-18	D5-Buf-17
	RUNNING BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
46	Booker, Devontae	RB	5-11	219	4	Utah	FA-Den-20	D4-Den-16
45	Ingold, Alec	FB	6-1	240	1	Wisconsin	FA-19	FA-LV-19
28	Jacobs, Josh	RB	5-10	220	1	Alabama	D1b-19	D1b-LV-19
30	Richard, Jalen	RB	5-8	205	4	Southern Miss	FA-16	FA-LV-16
34	Smith, Rod	RB	6-3	236	5	Ohio State	FA-19	FA-Sea-15
	RECEIVERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
15	Agholor, Nelson	WR	6-0	198	5	USC	FA-Phi-20	D1-Phi-15
88	Ateman, Marcell	WR	6-4	215	2	Oklahoma State	D7-18	D7-LV-18
86	Butler, Paul	TE	6-6	250	1	California (PA)	W-Det-20	FA-LV-18
85	Carrier, Derek	TE	6-3	240	7	Beloit	FA-LAR-18	FA-LV-12
18	Doss, Keelan	WR	6-3	215	1	UC Davis	FA-19	FA-LV-19
10	Gafford, Rico	WR	5-10	185	1	Wyoming	FA-18	FA-Ten-18
12	Jones, Zay	WR	6-2	200	3	East Carolina	T-Buf-19	D2-Buf-17
87	Moreau, Foster	TE	6-4	250	1	LSU	D4c-19	D4c-LV-19
84	O'Leary, Nick	TE	6-3	252	4	Florida State	FA-Jac-20	D6-Buf-15
19	Ratliff-Williams, Anthony	WR	6-1	205	1	North Carolina	FA-19	FA-Ten-19
13	Renfrow, Hunter	WR	5-10	185	1	Clemson	D5-19	D5-LV-19
83	Waller, Darren	TE	6-6	255	3	Georgia Tech	FA-18	D6-Bal-15
16	Williams, Tyrell	WR	6-4	205	5	Western Oregon	FA-LAC-19	FA-LAC-15
82	Witten, Jason	TE	6-6	263	16	Tennessee	FA-Dal-20	D3-Dal-03
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
77	Brown, Trent	T	6-8	380	5	Florida	FA-NE-19	D7a-SF-15
67	Cotton Sr., Lester	G	6-4	335	1	Alabama	FA-19	FA-LV-19
65	Devey, Jordan	OL	6-6	320	6	Memphis	FA-KC-19	FA-Bal-13
71	Good, Denzelle	G/T	6-5	340	5	Mars Hill	W-Ind-18	D7-Ind-15
61	Hudson, Rodney	C	6-2	315	9	Florida State	FA-KC-15	D2-KC-11
64	Incognito, Richie	G	6-3	325	12	Nebraska	FA-19	D3-LAR-05
66	Jackson, Gabe	G	6-3	335	6	Mississippi State	D3-14	D3-LV-14
68	James, Andre	OL	6-4	300	1	UCLA	FA-19	FA-LV-19
70	Kalis, Kyle	OL	6-4	306	2	Michigan	FA-19	FA-Was-17
69	Kush, Eric	G/C	6-4	317	5	California (PA)	FA-Cle-20	D6-KC-13
62	Magnuson, Erik	C	6-6	300	3	Michigan	FA-19	FA-SF-17
74	Miller, Kolton	T	6-8	325	2	UCLA	D1-18	D1-LV-18
75	Parker, Brandon	T	6-8	320	2	North Carolina A&T	D3a-18	D3a-LV-18
72	Sharpe, David	T	6-6	330	3	Florida	W-Hou-18	D4-LV-17
70	Young, Sam	T	6-8	302	10	Notre Dame	FA-20	D6-Dal-10
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
	Amukamara, Prince	CB	6-0	206	9	Nebraska	FA-Chi-20	D1-NYG-11
79	Aruna, Ade	DE	6-5	263	2	Tulane	FA-19	D6-Min-18
97	Collins, Maliek	DT	6-2	310	4	Nebraska	FA-Dal-20	D3-Dal-16
98	Crosby, Maxx	DE	6-5	255	1	Eastern Michigan	D4a-19	D4a-LV-19
96	Ferrell, Clelin	DE	6-4	265	1	Clemson	D1a-19	D1a-LV-19
92	Hall, P.J.	DT	6-0	305	2	Sam Houston St.	D2-18	D2-LV-18
90	Hankins, Johnathan	DT	6-3	340	7	Ohio State	FA-18	D2-NYG-13
73	Hurst, Maurice	DT	6-1	291	2	Michigan	D5a-18	D5a-LV-18
99	Key, Arden	DE	6-5	240	2	LSU	D3b-18	D3b-LV-18
94	Nassib, Carl	DE	6-7	275	4	Penn State	FA-TB-20	D3-Cle-16
93	Ross, Daniel	DT	6-4	300	3	NE Mississippi CC	FA-Dal-20	FA-Hou-17
95	Valoaga, Jeremiah	DE	6-6	275	2	UNLV	W-SF-19	FA-Det-17
78	Vickers, Kendal	DE	6-3	295	1	Tennessee	FA-20	FA-Pit-18
	LINEBACKERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
56	Coney, Te'von	LB	6-1	230	1	Notre Dame	FA-19	FA-LV-19
54	Eligwe, Ukeme	LB	6-2	239	3	Georgia Southern	FA-19	D5-KC-17
44	Kwiatkoski, Nick	LB	6-2	243	4	West Virginia	FA-Chi-20	D4a-Chi-16
52	Lee, Marquel	LB	6-3	235	3	Wake Forest	D5-17	D5-LV-17
42	Littleton, Cory	LB	6-3	228	4	Washington	FA-LAR-20	FA-LAR-16
50	Morrow, Nicholas	LB	6-0	225	3	Greenville	FA-17	FA-LV-17
56	Phillips, Justin	LB	6-0	235	1	Oklahoma State	FA-20	FA-Dal-19
51	Poling, Quentin	LB	6-1	235	1	Ohio	FA-20	D7-Mia-18
58	Wilber, Kyle	LB	6-4	240	8	Wake Forest	FA-Dal-18	D4a-Dal-12
	DEFENSIVE BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
24	Abram, Johnathan	S	6-0	205	1	Mississippi State	D1c-19	D1c-LV-19
35	Crawley, Ken	CB	6-1	180	4	Colorado	FA-20	FA-NO-16
25	Harris, Erik	S	6-2	220	4	California (PA)	FA-17	FA-NO-16
38	Heath, Jeff	S	6-1	212	7	Saginaw Valley St.	FA-Dal-20	FA-Dal-13
31	Johnson, Isaiah	CB	6-2	210	1	Houston	D4b-19	D4b-LV-19
29	Joyner, Lamarcus	S	5-8	185	6	Florida State	FA-LAR-19	D2-LAR-14
40	Killings, D.J.	CB	5-10	195	1	UCF	FA-19	FA-NE-17
26	Lawson, Nevin	CB	5-10	190	6	Utah State	FA-Det-19	D4b-Det-14
32	Leavitt, Dallin	S	5-10	195	1	Utah State	FA-18	FA-LV-18
37	Mabin, Dylan	CB	6-1	195	1	Fordham	FA-19	FA-LV-19
27	Mullen, Trayvon	CB	6-2	200	1	Clemson	D2-19	D2-LV-19
21	Nelson, Nick	CB	5-11	205	2	Wisconsin	D4-18	D4-LV-18
22	Nixon, Keisean	CB	5-10	200	1	South Carolina	FA-19	FA-LV-19
23	Randall, Damarious	S	5-11	196	5	Arizona State	FA-Cle-20	D1-GB-15
	SPECIALISTS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
8	Carlson, Daniel	K	6-5	215	2	Auburn	FA-18	D5-Min-18
6	Cole, AJ	P	6-4	220	1	NC State	FA-19	FA-LV-19
47	Sieg, Trent	LS	6-3	240	2	Colorado State	FA-18	FA-Bal-18



Raiders *in the Draft* | Grade: B

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	**Henry Ruggs III**	**WR**	**6-0**	**190**	**Alabama**
1.	Damon Arnette	CB	6-0	195	Ohio State
3.	Lynn Bowden Jr.	RB/WR	5-11	204	Kentucky
3.	Bryan Edwards	WR	6-3	212	South Carolina
3.	Tanner Muse	LB	6-2	227	Clemson
4.	John Simpson	G	6-4	321	Clemson
4.	Amik Robertson	CB	5-8	187	Louisiana Tech

The Raiders checked off all of their boxes with a draft that adds much-needed speed, athletic ability and versatility offensively. Henry Ruggs III is a 4.2 40 guy with route-running promise and the ability to change games when the ball is in his hands. Bryan Edwards was hurt by a late-season knee injury and then a broken foot he suffered in the offseason, pushing him down the draft board and right into the laps of the Raiders. Lynn Bowden Jr. is a Percy Harvin-type weapon whom Raiders head coach Jon Gruden is expected to scheme up and utilize in a variety of different ways. The Raiders benefited from the draft fall of Clemson guard John Simpson, who projects as the eventual starter at right guard. The Raiders dipped into the secondary pool with the additions of Damon Arnette and Amik Robertson, a pair of feisty press-cover defenders who bring talent, swagger and tenacity to a vital position.

Outside the Huddle

FIXING THE MATH The Raiders averaged the 11th-most yards per game in the NFL at 363.7 and were seventh best in third down conversions, and QB Derek Carr threw for more than 4,000 yards. Yet all it got them was a ranking of 24th in points per game at 19.6. That math doesn't add up, which is why the Raiders added rookie weapons in wide receivers Henry Ruggs III and Bryan Edwards and the ultra-versatile Lynn Bowden Jr. in the draft. The explosiveness the new trio adds could position the Raiders as one of the most dynamic offenses in the NFL.

SWING AND A MISS The Raiders had a free agent deal in place with veteran cornerback Eli Apple. While not an elite CB, Apple would have brought size, press cover skills and remaining upside alongside promising second-year CB Trayvon Mullen. But the deal hit a snag a couple weeks after Apple and the Raiders agreed to terms, leaving the Raiders without a player at a must-need position and likely forcing them to play a rookie extensively at cornerback.

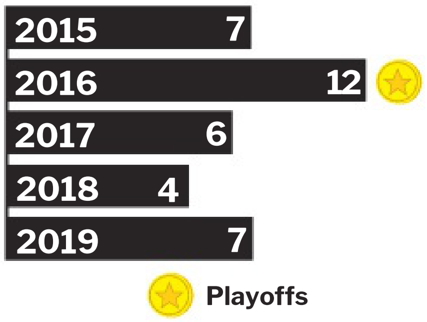
TAKING A BIG STEP FORWARD In some ways, rookie DE Clelin Ferrell didn't live up to expectations as the fourth overall pick in the 2019 draft. But he promised Year Two would be different. "I'm excited for the offseason because when I come back, it's going to be [as] a completely different player," Ferrell said. "You probably won't even recognize me. Seriously. I'm excited. It's about building on everything. I know what I have to work on. I talked to the coaches. I know what I have to improve on. I also want to get guys around to buy into that mindset, too. I hope guys on the team understand that the group of guys we have is special. Our future is bright. If we work out together, we should come back a whole different breed."

CLEMSON CONNECTION The Raiders drafted three players from Clemson's 2018 national title team in Ferrell, Hunter Renfrow and Mullen. By year's end, all three had earned starting jobs and were big contributors. So of course the Raiders went back to the pipeline, drafting G John Simpson and LB Tanner Muse from Clemson in 2020.

CARR HAPPY When the Raiders drafted Ruggs in the first round, general manager Mike Mayock's phone started blowing up with messages. It was Carr. "I got about five texts with 'W-O-W-!'" Mayock said. "He was just fired up with that pick." On Day Two of the draft, the Raiders added Edwards and Bowden. Again, Carr chimed in with messages to Mayock. "I don't even know how to make emojis. I was just looking at all these emojis like 'I guess he's happy, that looks good,'" Mayock said. "Bottom line is what we're trying to do is get more dynamic on offense, and I think that's what Derek recognizes as well."

A LOT TO PROVE At 5'8", Louisiana Tech CB Amik Robertson was one of the smallest players in his class. But the film shows a guy as tough, tenacious and skilled as anyone. The doubts created by his size fuel him. "I've been doubted my whole life," Robertson says. "On the field, I'm going to prove to the world why I belong. I'm excited and ready to work. Raider Nation did not make a mistake on me. When time passes, they'll see why."

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



NUMBERS TO KNOW

17.5

The Raiders had the second-lowest blitz rate in the NFL per Sportradar tracking data, at 17.5 percent.

107

Derek Carr faced only 107 blitzes last year per Sportradar tracking data, the lowest amount for any 16-game starter.

8.9

The Raiders' defense last year forced a turnover on just 8.9 percent of opponents' offensive possessions, the lowest rate in the NFL.

Paul Abell

Los Angeles CHARGERS

AFC West Forecast: 3

THE ORGANIZATION

Owner: Alex G. Spanos
Controlling Owner/Chairman of the Board: Dean A. Spanos
President of Football Operations: John Spanos
General Manager: Tom Telesco
Stadium: SoFi Stadium (70,240)
Surface: Artificial turf
Website: www.chargers.com
Tickets: 877-CHARGERS (24274377)
Training Camp: Jack Hammett Sports Complex (Costa Mesa, Calif.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Anthony Lynn
Record With Team: 26-22
Career Record: 26-23
Offensive Coordinator: Shane Steichen
Defensive Coordinator: Gus Bradley
Special Teams Coordinator/Assistant Head Coach: George Stewart
Quarterbacks: Alfonza "Pep" Hamilton Jr.
Running Backs: Mark Ridgley
Wide Receivers: Phil McGeoghan
Tight Ends: Alfredo Roberts
Offensive Line: James Campen
Defensive Line: Giff Smith
Linebackers: Richard Smith
Defensive Backs: Ron Milus

Philip Rivers is gone, and Tom Brady never arrived. The Chargers didn't land a star quarterback for their first season at SoFi Stadium, but they did find one they could develop for the future and potentially play for many seasons at the new stadium. Justin Herbert was drafted sixth overall in this year's draft to be the long-term successor to Rivers.

Teams with first-round quarterbacks are often in rebuild mode, but not the Chargers. They spent money in free agency and plan to be ready to make a playoff run regardless of who's starting at quarterback in 2020.

OFFENSE For the first time since Rivers and Drew Brees were teammates, the Chargers will have a quarterback battle. Veteran quarterback Tyrod Taylor is currently the starter, but the Chargers want competition. Taylor and Herbert are similar in style in that they can throw deep and move around in the pocket but struggle with accuracy and intermediate passes. Taylor, however, holds the advantage of being familiar with a run-heavy Lynn-operated offense. Lynn was Taylor's offensive coordinator in 2016, when the Buffalo Bills led the league in rushing yards. Expect Taylor to open the season as the starter. If the Chargers are in playoff contention, Herbert will likely not see the field in 2020.

The Chargers' 2020 draft class made it clear they're shifting away from a traditional pass-first scheme. Expect to see run-pass options, pistol formations, zone reads and zone run blocking. Lynn will attempt to blend new trends (think Lamar Jackson and the Ravens) with old school (think Dalvin Cook and the Vikings). Lynn won two Super Bowls as a reserve running back with the Denver Broncos in the late 1990s. The zone blocking that Kyle Shanahan uses with the San Francisco 49ers debuted in the NFL with those Broncos teams. Shanahan's father, Mike, coached Lynn in Denver. Now, Lynn will attempt to recreate what the younger Shanahan has done, but with his own flavors.

The Chargers' offense was top-heavy with cornerstone pieces such as running back Austin Ekeler, tight end Hunter Henry and wide receivers Keenan Allen and Mike Williams. Thanks to the draft, the Chargers have depth and the pieces to open the playbook.

Ekeler had a breakout 2019 season because of his versatility as a runner and pass catcher. The addition of rookie wide receiver Joe Reed will make it difficult for teams to focus on Ekeler. The Chargers plan to use Reed as a gadget player who can contribute out of the backfield and as a deep threat. They also added power with rookie running back Joshua Kelley, who will replace Melvin Gordon III and perhaps take snaps away from Justin Jackson. Kelley's physicality will likely make him the second running back on the depth chart over the athletic Jackson.

The Chargers revamped their offensive line by trading for right guard Trai Turner and signing Bryan Bulaga, but there are many question marks at the other three positions. Center Mike Pouncey is coming off neck surgery. Forrest Lamp and Dan Feeney will battle at left guard. Perhaps this is the year Lamp, the team's 2017 second-round pick, lives up to his potential and stays healthy.

Second-year player Trey Pipkins III is the projected starting left tackle after the Chargers didn't draft an offensive tackle or sign one to replace Russell Okung, whom the team traded to the Carolina Panthers for Turner. The Chargers were pleased with Pipkins' rookie season, but they might be underestimating the value of a seasoned left tackle.

2020 SCHEDULE

2019 NFL RANKINGS

Date	Opponent	Time	2019 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 13	at Cincinnati	4:05	2-14	323.1 (26)	393.7 (29)	17.4 (30)	26.2 (25)
Sept. 20	Kansas City	4:25	12-4	379.2 (6)	349.6 (17)	28.2 (5)	19.2 (7)
Sept. 27	Carolina	4:05	5-11	341.8 (19)	374.5 (23)	21.2 (20)	29.4 (31)
Oct. 4	at Tampa Bay	1:00	7-9	397.9 (3)	343.9 (15)	28.6 (t3)	28.1 (29)
Oct. 12	at New Orleans (Mon.)	8:15	13-3	373.9 (9)	333.1 (11)	28.6 (t3)	21.3 (13)
Oct. 18	N.Y. Jets	4:05	7-9	273.0 (32)	323.1 (7)	17.2 (31)	22.4 (16)
Oct. 25	at Miami	1:00	5-11	310.0 (27)	397.8 (30)	19.1 (25)	30.9 (32)
Nov. 1	Jacksonville	4:05	6-10	341.8 (20)	375.4 (24)	18.8 (26)	24.8 (21)
Nov. 8	Las Vegas	4:05	7-9	363.7 (11)	354.8 (19)	19.6 (24)	26.2 (24)
BYE							
Nov. 22	at Denver	4:05	7-9	298.6 (28)	337.0 (12)	17.6 (28)	19.8 (10)
Nov. 29	at Buffalo	1:00	10-6	330.2 (24)	298.3 (3)	19.6 (23)	16.2 (2)
Dec. 6	New England	4:25	12-4	354.0 (15)	275.9 (1)	26.2 (7)	14.1 (1)
Dec. 13	Atlanta	4:25	7-9	379.7 (5)	355.8 (20)	23.8 (13)	24.9 (23)
Dec. 17	at Las Vegas (Thu.)	8:20	7-9	363.7 (11)	354.8 (19)	19.6 (24)	26.2 (24)
Dec.26/27	Denver	TBD	7-9	298.6 (28)	337.0 (12)	17.6 (28)	19.8 (10)
Jan. 3	at Kansas City	1:00	12-4	379.2 (6)	349.6 (17)	28.2 (5)	19.2 (7)

Joey Bosa

DEFENSIVE END

2019 RESULTS (5-11)

Sept. 8	Indianapolis (ot)	W	30-24
Sept. 15	at Detroit	L	10-13
Sept. 22	Houston	L	20-27
Sept. 29	at Miami	W	30-10
Oct. 6	Denver	L	13-20
Oct. 13	Pittsburgh	L	17-24
Oct. 20	at Tennessee	L	20-23
Oct. 27	at Chicago	W	17-16
Nov. 3	Green Bay	W	26-11
Nov. 7	at Oakland	L	24-26
Nov. 18	Kansas City	L	17-24
Dec. 1	at Denver	L	20-23
Dec. 8	at Jacksonville	W	45-10
Dec. 15	Minnesota	L	10-39
Dec. 22	Oakland	L	17-24
Dec. 29	at Kansas City	L	21-31

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Philip Rivers	591	390	4,615	23	20

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Melvin Gordon III	162	612	3.8	8
Austin Ekeler	132	557	4.2	3
Justin Jackson	29	200	6.9	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Keenan Allen	104	1,199	11.5	6
Mike Williams	49	1,001	20.4	2
Austin Ekeler	92	993	10.8	8
Hunter Henry	55	652	11.9	5
Melvin Gordon III	42	296	7.0	1

KICKING: Michael Badgley, 13-16 FGs, 19-19 PAT, 58 points; Ty Long, 7-9 FGs, 9-9 PAT, 30 points

TACKLES: Thomas Davis Sr., 112; Drue Tranquill, 75

SACKS: Joey Bosa, 11.5; Melvin Ingram III, 7.0

INTERCEPTIONS: Rayshawn Jenkins, 3; two tied with 2

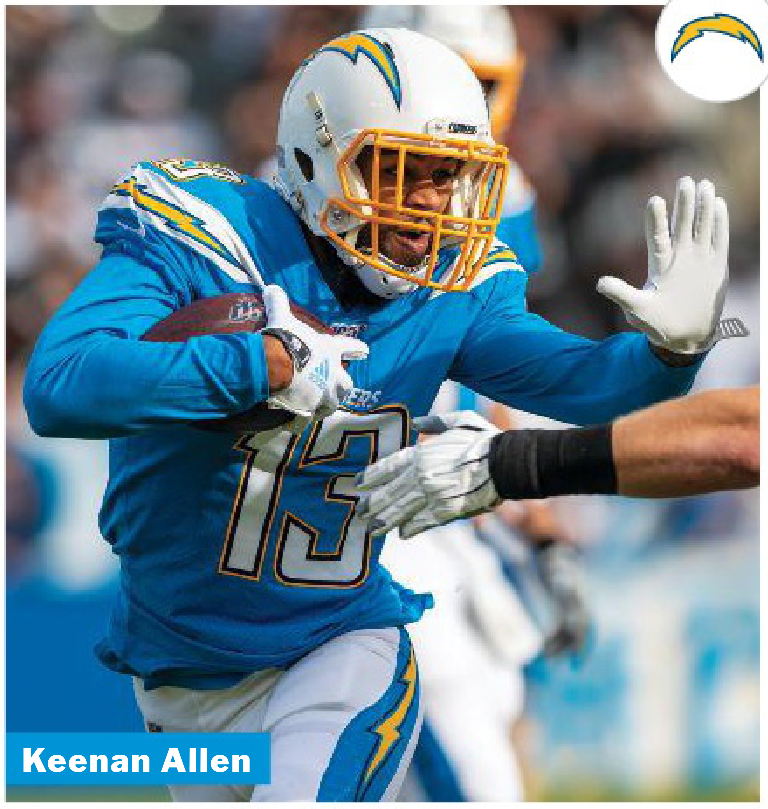
2019 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	367.4	10	3
Rushing	90.8	28	13
Passing	276.6	6	2
Scoring	21.1	21	7
Third Down %	44.3	6	3
Punt Returns	5.4	28	15
Kick Returns	20.7	26	14

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	313.1	6	5
Rushing	112.8	18	10
Passing	200.2	5	4
Scoring	21.6	14	8
Interceptions	11	T22	T12
Sacks	30	28	15
Turnover Differential	-17	T31	16

Peter Brouillet

With a run-first offense, the offensive line won't need to hold the pocket for too long. They have players who are capable of getting open quickly with Allen, Ekeler and rookie slot receiver KJ Hill.


Keenan Allen

DEFENSE The Chargers learned from their mistake of expecting Derwin James to be on the field at all times to play multiple roles. The addition of cornerback Chris Harris Jr. will give the Chargers' star-studded defense another versatile playmaker.

Many are assuming Harris will take Desmond King II's job as the slot cornerback. The Chargers, however, are searching for ways to have Harris and King on the field together. One option could be rotating Harris as an inside and outside cornerback. This would allow King to contribute as a safety blitzer, an area where he excels. King's physicality makes him the lead candidate to replace Adrian Phillips as the do-it-all defensive back.

The Chargers are crowded in the secondary, but they'll be ready in case another injury occurs. One of the biggest competitions of the summer will be for the free safety spot next to James, who missed the first 11 games last season because of a foot injury. Many are expecting 2019 second-round pick Nasir Adderley to emerge as the starter after missing most of his rookie season because of a hamstring injury, but don't count out Rayshawn Jenkins, who impressed the coaching staff as the starter last season.

Linebacker Kenneth Murray Jr. could have the biggest impact from the Chargers' 2020 draft class. Murray's versatility will likely make him the starting weakside linebacker. He has the speed and power to contribute as a pass rusher, giving the Chargers depth on the defensive line. Defensive coordinator Gus Bradley is at his best when he has two waves of pass rushers. Murray and Uchenna Nwosu can provide that behind star defensive ends Melvin Ingram III and Joey Bosa.

Murray played middle linebacker at Oklahoma, but that role likely belongs to last year's rookie standout Drue Tranquill. Murray, who was recruited as an outside linebacker in college, should replace Thomas Davis Sr. as the other inside linebacker. The linebackers didn't provide much production in 2019, but now the Chargers have depth with Denzel Perryman, Kyzir White and free agent addition Nick Vigil in the rotation.

Bosa had another Pro Bowl season despite the lack of pass-rush help. The free agent signing of nose tackle Linval Joseph should give Bosa and Ingram more space to operate. Joseph is known as an interior pass rusher who can contribute as a run stopper.

On paper, the Chargers should have a top-five defense, and that could go a long way in helping Taylor and the offense.

SPECIALISTS The Chargers said goodbye to many key special teams players after the unit failed to produce in 2019. But the front office didn't neglect this area, which often gets overlooked in the NFL. They signed return specialist and wide receiver Darius Jennings and drafted Reed, who was an All-America kick returner last season. Expect the Virginia products to split the kickoff and punt return duties.

Michael Badgley is one of the best kickers in the league, but the Chargers need him to stay healthy. He missed eight games last season because of a groin injury. Punter Ty Long and long snapper Cole Mazza formed a strong tandem as rookies last season.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Chargers are built to win in 2020 with a strong roster, but they might be relying too much on Taylor and Pipkins to produce at a high level. Quarterback and left tackle are two of the most important positions in football, and they might be this team's weaknesses. Taylor is a quality starter, but he's been shaky in years past with the Buffalo Bills and Cleveland Browns. But this is arguably the best roster he's ever had, and perhaps that's enough to give him a Rich Gannon-like resurgence in Year 10 of his career.

Taylor might need to just be Trent Dilfer or Brad Johnson because of the Chargers' loaded defense. And Lynn's job may depend on it. He can't afford to have an average season and miss the playoffs for the third time in four seasons.

2020 VETERAN CHARGERS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
2	Stick, Easton	QB	6-1	217	1	North Dakota St.	D5-19	D5-LAC-19
5	Taylor, Tyrod	QB	6-1	217	9	Virginia Tech	FA-Cle-19	D6-Bal-11

RUNNING BACKS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
30	Ekeler, Austin	RB	5-10	200	3	Western State	FA-17	FA-LAC-17
22	Jackson, Justin	RB	6-0	199	2	Northwestern	D7-18	D7-LAC-18

RECEIVERS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
13	Allen, Keenan	WR	6-2	211	7	California	D3-13	D3-LAC-13
82	Anderson, Stephen	TE	6-3	230	3	California	FA-19	FA-Hou-16
88	Green, Virgil	TE	6-5	255	9	Nevada	FA-Den-18	D7a-Den-11
15	Guyton, Jalen	WR	6-1	212	1	North Texas	FA-19	FA-Dal-19
86	Henry, Hunter	TE	6-5	250	4	Arkansas	D2-16	D2-LAC-16
11	Jennings, Darius	WR	5-10	180	3	Virginia	FA-Ten-20	FA-Cle-15
3	Johnson, Tyron	WR	6-1	193	1	Oklahoma State	FA-19	FA-Hou-19
89	Moore, Jason	WR	6-2	213	1	Findlay	FA-19	FA-LAC-19
48	Parham Jr., Donald	TE	6-8	240	1	Stetson	FA-20	FA-Det-20
16	Patton, Andre	WR	6-2	200	1	Rutgers	FA-17	FA-LAC-17
87	Vollert, Andrew	TE	6-5	245	1	Weber State	W-Cin-19	FA-Ari-18
81	Williams, Mike	WR	6-4	220	3	Clemson	D1-17	D1-LAC-17

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
75	Bulaga, Bryan	T	6-5	314	10	Iowa	FA-GB-20	D1-GB-10
66	Feeney, Dan	G	6-4	310	3	Indiana	D3-17	D3-LAC-17
77	Lamp, Forrest	G	6-4	310	3	Western Kentucky	D2-17	D2-LAC-17
65	Martin, Koda	G	6-7	300	1	Syracuse	FA-19	FA-LAC-19
74	Norton, Storm	G/T	6-7	317	1	Toledo	FA-20	FA-Det-17
79	Pipkins III, Trey	T	6-6	304	1	Sioux Falls	D3-19	D3-LAC-19
53	Pouncey, Mike	C	6-5	298	9	Florida	FA-Mia-18	D1-Mia-11
61	Quessenberry, Scott	C/G	6-4	310	2	UCLA	D5-18	D5-LAC-18
78	Scott, Trent	T	6-5	320	2	Grambling State	FA-18	FA-LAC-18
70	St. Louis, Tyree	T	6-5	315	1	Miami	FA-19	FA-NE-19
69	Tevi, Sam	T	6-5	315	3	Utah	D6-17	D6-LAC-17
64	Toner, Cole	C/G	6-5	310	3	Harvard	FA-17	D5-Ari-16
70	Turner, Trai	G	6-3	315	6	LSU	T-Car-20	D3-Car-14

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
97	Bosa, Joey	DE	6-5	280	4	Ohio State	D1-16	D1-LAC-16
91	Broughton, Cortez	DT	6-2	291	1	Cincinnati	D7-19	D7-LAC-19
54	Ingram III, Melvin	DE	6-2	247	8	South Carolina	D1-12	D1-LAC-12
94	Johnson, P.J.	DT	6-3	320	1	Arizona	FA-19	D7-Det-19
93	Jones, Justin	DT	6-3	309	2	NC State	D3-18	D3-LAC-18
95	Joseph, Linval	DT	6-4	329	10	East Carolina	FA-Min-20	D2-NYG-10
42	Nwosu, Uchenna	DE	6-2	251	2	USC	D2-18	D2-LAC-18
98	Rochell, Isaac	DE	6-4	280	2	Notre Dame	D7-17	D7-LAC-17
99	Tillery, Jerry	DT	6-6	295	1	Notre Dame	D1-19	D1-LAC-19

LINEBACKERS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
51	Egbule, Emeke	LB	6-2	245	1	Houston	D6-19	D6-LAC-19
46	Jefferson, Malik	LB	6-2	240	2	Texas	FA-19	D3-Cin-18
52	Perryman, Denzel	LB	5-11	240	5	Miami	D2-15	D2-LAC-15
49	Tranquill, Drue	LB	6-2	228	1	Notre Dame	D4-19	D4-LAC-19
59	Vigil, Nick	LB	6-2	235	4	Utah State	FA-Cin-20	D3-Cin-16
44	White, Kyzir	LB	6-2	218	2	West Virginia	D4-18	D4-LAC-18

DEFENSIVE BACKS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
32	Adderley, Nasir	S	6-0	195	1	Delaware	D2-19	D2-LAC-19
37	Campbell, Tevaughn	CB	6-0	200	1	Regina	FA-19	FA-NYJ-19
43	Davis, Michael	CB	6-2	195	3	BYU	FA-17	FA-LAC-17
28	Facyson, Brandon	CB	6-2	197	2	Virginia Tech	FA-18	FA-LAC-18
25	Harris Jr., Chris	CB	5-10	199	9	Kansas	FA-Den-20	FA-Den-11
26	Hayward Jr., Casey	CB	5-11	192	8	Vanderbilt	FA-GB-16	D2b-GB-12
33	James Jr., Derwin	S	6-2	215	2	Florida State	D1-18	D1-LAC-18
23	Jenkins, Rayshawn	S	6-2	220	3	Miami	D4-17	D4-LAC-17
20	King II, Desmond	DB	5-10	200	3	Iowa	D5-17	D5-LAC-17
29	Meeks, Quenton	DB	6-1	209	2	Stanford	FA-19	FA-Jac-18
36	Teamer, Roderic	S	5-11	187	1	Tulane	FA-19	FA-LAC-19

SPECIALISTS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
4	Badgley, Michael	K	5-10	183	2	Miami	FA-18	FA-Ind-18
1	Long, Ty	P	6-2	205	1	UAB	FA-19	FA-Was-15
45	Mazza, Cole	LS	6-2	235	1	Alabama	FA-19	FA-LAC-19

Scouting the Chargers

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP LOS ANGELES "QB Philip Rivers' 15-year tenure with the Chargers came to a sad ending. Although they gave Rivers playmakers, they never put a big emphasis on protecting a pocket passer with a top-level OL. ... This will be a more spread-look offense with QB Tyrod Taylor, so expect them to have more of a zone-based OL scheme with the addition of Pro Bowl OG Trai Turner and veteran OT Bryan Bulaga. ... They rewarded RB Austin Ekeler, a tough and underrated playmaker, with a contract extension and let Melvin Gordon III depart. ... They have a great receiving unit with one of the best route runners in WR Keenan Allen, jump-ball expert WR Mike Williams and TE Hunter Henry, but they need to upgrade the depth. ... This is one of the best defenses in the NFL under coordinator Gus Bradley. They have a top-three edge duo with All-Pro Joey Bosa (11.5 sacks), high-end starter Melvin Ingram III and rising role player Uchenna Nwosu, but an average DT unit, so they signed Linval Joseph to help. ... They moved on from veteran ILB Thomas Davis Sr. with high expectations for Denzel Perryman, Drue Tranquill and first-round pick Kenneth Murray Jr. to fill that void. ... The nickel and safety spots have All-Pros Desmond King II and Derwin James, but look for Rayshawn Jenkins, a ballhawk safety, to play a bigger role this season. The outside CB unit had a glaring weakness next to Casey Hayward Jr., but they addressed that with star CB Chris Harris Jr. ... GM Tom Telesco and head coach Anthony Lynn have a talented defense and drafted Justin Herbert, their QB of the future, but can they find a way to sneak back into the playoffs?"

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
RT	Bryan Bulaga	Green Bay
CB	Chris Harris Jr.	Denver
WR	Darius Jennings	Tennessee
NT	Linval Joseph	Minnesota
RG	Trai Turner	Carolina
LB	Nick Vigil	Cincinnati

KEY LOSSES −

POS.	PLAYER	2020 TEAM
LB	Thomas Davis Sr.	Washington
RB	Melvin Gordon III	Denver
NT	Brandon Mebane	Free agent
LT	Russell Okung	Carolina
SS	Adrian Phillips	New England
QB	Philip Rivers	Indianapolis
FB	Derek Watt	Pittsburgh

Offseason Depth Chart

OFFENSE

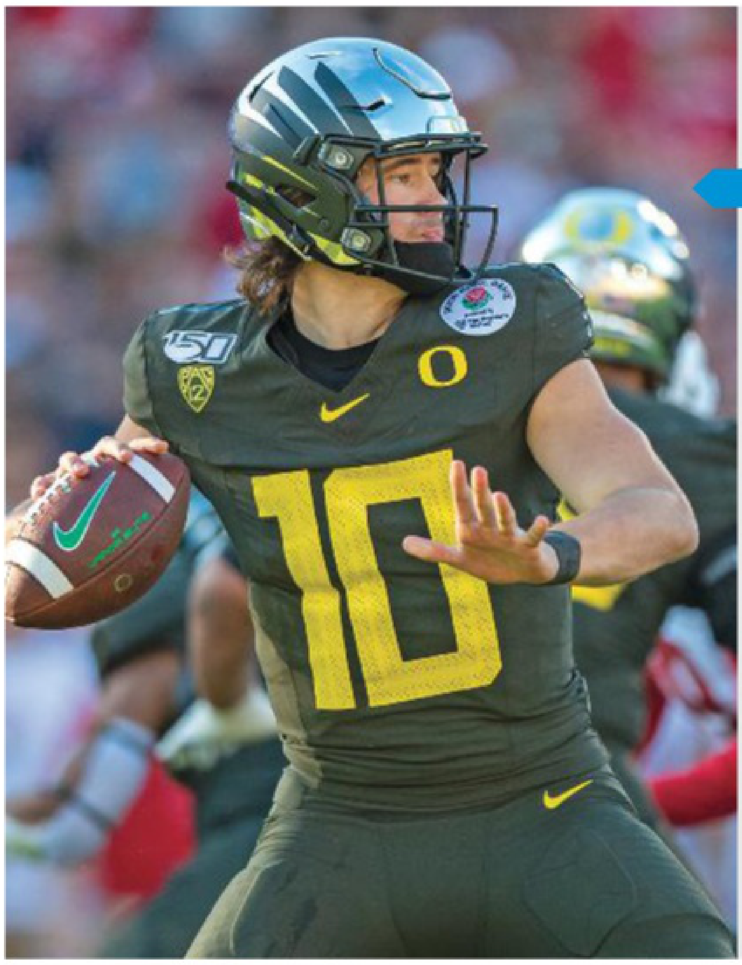
WR	13	Keenan Allen	84	KJ Hill (R)
WR	81	Mike Williams	16	Andre Patton
WR	12	Joe Reed (R)	11	Darius Jennings
LT	79	Trey Pipkins III	74	Storm Norton
LG	77	Forrest Lamp	66	Dan Feeney
C	53	Mike Pouncey	61	Scott Quessenberry
RG	70	Trai Turner	78	Trent Scott
RT	75	Bryan Bulaga	69	Sam Tevi
TE	86	Hunter Henry	88	Virgil Green
QB	5	Tyrod Taylor	10	Justin Herbert (R)
RB	30	Austin Ekeler	27	Joshua Kelley (R)

DEFENSE

DE	97	Joey Bosa	98	Isaac Rochell
DT	95	Linval Joseph	91	Cortez Broughton
DT	93	Justin Jones	99	Jerry Tillery
DE	54	Melvin Ingram III	42	Uchenna Nwosu
WLB	56	Kenneth Murray (R)	44	Kyzir White
MLB	49	Drue Tranquill	52	Denzel Perryman
CB	26	Casey Hayward Jr.	43	Michael Davis
CB	25	Chris Harris Jr.	28	Brandon Facyson
CB	20	Desmond King II	37	Tevaughn Campbell
SS	33	Derwin James Jr.	32	Alohi Gilman (R)
FS	23	Rayshawn Jenkins	24	Nasir Adderley

SPECIALISTS

K	4	Michael Badgley	KR	12	Joe Reed (R)
P	1	Ty Long	PR	11	Darius Jennings



Chargers *in the Draft* | Grade: B

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	**Justin Herbert**	**QB**	**6-6**	**236**	**Oregon**
1.	Kenneth Murray Jr.	ILB	6-2	241	Oklahoma
4.	Joshua Kelley	RB	5-11	212	UCLA
5.	Joe Reed	WR	6-0	224	Virginia
6.	Alohi Gilman	SS	5-10	201	Notre Dame
7.	KJ Hill	WR	6-0	196	Ohio State

Justin Herbert has the physical tools the Chargers have been searching for as they transition into a run-heavy offense. But Herbert was the third quarterback taken because he struggled with accuracy and reading defenses. The Chargers gambled here by favoring scheme needs over best available player. But the Chargers have a strong roster that could help Herbert reach his potential. They won't have to groom Kenneth Murray Jr. The versatile linebacker will likely be in the starting lineup for Week 1. The Chargers had a strong draft class, but not drafting an offensive tackle early could hurt them in 2020.

Outside the Huddle

NEW QB For the first time in more than 5,000 days, the Chargers will have a starting quarterback not named Philip Rivers when the 2020 season opens. Rivers made 235 consecutive starts, including 11 playoff games, in the last 14 seasons with the Chargers. Drew Brees was the last Charger to start at quarterback before Rivers. Brees did that on Dec. 31, 2005, against the Denver Broncos in San Diego.

GO DEEP, MIKE! Whoever gets the nod to be the Chargers' starting quarterback would be wise to throw in Mike Williams' direction often. At times last season, it seemed Rivers and Williams were playing backyard football with their numerous down-the-field connections. Rivers threw prayers into double coverage, but it didn't matter because Williams often came down with the ball, and the numbers support that. Williams had a league-high average of 20.4 yards per catch in 2019 and needed only 49 receptions to surpass 1,000 receiving yards.

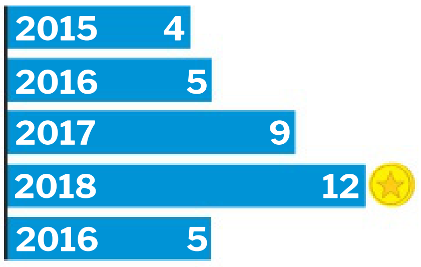
HEALTHY D.J. Derwin James returned from foot surgery last season to play in the final five games, but he didn't appear 100 percent. If James stays healthy, expect him to return to his dominant ways and help improve the Chargers' pass rush and takeaway numbers from 2019. Don't forget what James did as a rookie when he was named an All-Pro at two positions (safety and defensive back).

DEFENSIVE TWEAKS It's rare when defensive coordinators install a full-scheme makeover, especially a coordinator as accomplished as Gus Bradley. But free agent acquisition Chris Harris Jr. has hinted at possible changes in the secondary. Bradley's Cover 3 scheme can be predictable, but Harris says it doesn't have to be so vanilla with him on the roster. The Chargers are crowded in the secondary but are loaded with playmakers who can line up at multiple positions. Harris, a four-time Pro Bowl cornerback, expects to play all over the field, and don't be surprised if cornerback Desmond King II also moves around to safety and linebacker.

LOOMING HOLDOUT Chargers fans should prepare for a second consecutive training camp with a player holding out. Star defensive end Joey Bosa is due for a hefty pay raise with one year remaining on his rookie contract. He's recorded 40 sacks in four seasons and is regarded as one of the best pass rushers in the NFL. He'll be looking to break the bank, and that could make contract negotiations drag into the summer and possibly the regular season. The Chargers didn't cave to Melvin Gordon III's contract demands last year. He's now a member of the Denver Broncos.

SOPHOMORE SEASON The Chargers' top two picks in last year's draft seem to be forgotten. Jerry Tillery, the team's first-round selection, didn't produce much as a rookie, struggling to apply pressure in the interior of the defense. Nasir Adderley, a second-round pick, played only 10 defensive snaps and missed the final 12 games of the season. With the Chargers adding Harris and nose tackle Linval Joseph, the team doesn't need instant production from Tillery and Adderley. Less pressure might benefit them in 2020.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



NUMBERS TO KNOW

13.7

The Chargers had the lowest blitz rate in the league per Sportradar tracking data, at 13.7 percent.

18.4

Los Angeles turned the ball over on 18.4 percent of its offensive drives, the second-highest rate in the NFL behind the Bucs.

26.2

Los Angeles' offense averaged a start on its own 26.2-yard line, the second-worst average starting field position in the NFL.

Peter Brouillet

2020 NFC PREDICTIONS

NFC Playoff Seedings

1. New Orleans
2. San Francisco
3. Minnesota
4. Dallas
5. Tampa Bay
6. Seattle
7. Green Bay

Wild Card Weekend

San Francisco over Green Bay
Seattle over Minnesota
Tampa Bay over Dallas

Divisional Round

New Orleans over Seattle
Tampa Bay over San Francisco

NFC Championship

New Orleans over Tampa Bay

Super Bowl LV

New Orleans over Baltimore

NFC Power Rankings

1. New Orleans
2. Tampa Bay
3. San Francisco
4. Seattle
5. Dallas
6. Philadelphia
7. Minnesota
8. Green Bay
9. L.A. Rams
10. Arizona
11. Atlanta
12. N.Y. Giants
13. Chicago
14. Detroit
15. Washington
16. Carolina

NFC EAST

1. DALLAS COWBOYS
Prescott, Elliott and Cooper conjure visions of Aikman, Smith and Irvin — and their Super Bowl success — in Big D.

2. PHILADELPHIA EAGLES
Repeat champs are rare in the NFC East, but the Birds have a shot.

3. NEW YORK GIANTS
Daniel Jones' second season also features his second head coach.

4. WASHINGTON REDSKINS
Ron Rivera provides an instant dose of credibility to a franchise that needs it.

NFC NORTH

1. MINNESOTA VIKINGS
The Vikings patched over their holes with a great draft. The key could be Dalvin Cook's health and production.

2. GREEN BAY PACKERS
The Packers had a lot go their way in 2019. Expect a slight regression to the mean.

3. CHICAGO BEARS
All eyes will be on the quarterback position. Can Mitchell Trubisky fend off Nick Foles?

4. DETROIT LIONS
There's talent in Detroit — just not quite enough of it to be a factor.

NFC SOUTH

1. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS
Is 40 the new 25 in the NFC South? The two QBs atop the division have a combined 84 years on this earth.

2. TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS
Brady and Gronk are together again. Can they muster another Super Bowl run?

3. ATLANTA FALCONS
The Falcons' 6–2 finish in 2019 earned Dan Quinn & Co. a reprieve.

4. CAROLINA PANTHERS
The Panthers have Christian McCaffrey and not much else. Some weeks, he's enough.

NFC WEST

1. SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS
Don't forget: This team had a double-digit lead in the fourth quarter of the Super Bowl. The Niners are still a serious threat.

2. SEATTLE SEAHAWKS
Russell Wilson almost certainly has another Super Bowl run in him. Maybe this year.

3. LOS ANGELES RAMS
Once the flavor of the month, the Rams seem to be trending downward.

4. ARIZONA CARDINALS
This franchise has an exciting future, but this season is about laying more groundwork.

Cameron Jordan

Peter Brouillet

Coordinator Carousel

ATLANTA FALCONS

Defensive Coordinator

Old: Dan Quinn • New: Raheem Morris

The team's midseason turnaround in 2019 coincided with head coach Dan Quinn's decision to entrust the defense to Morris.

CAROLINA PANTHERS

Offensive Coordinator

Old: Scott Turner • New: Joe Brady

The 30-year-old Brady became a rising star in coaching circles in 2019 as LSU's passing game coordinator.

CAROLINA PANTHERS

Defensive Coordinator

Old: Eric Washington • New: Phil Snow

A 64-year-old veteran of the coaching wars, Snow follows Matt Rhule to Charlotte from Baylor. As Bears defensive coordinator, Snow oversaw the top scoring defense in the Big 12 in 2019.

CHICAGO BEARS

Offensive Coordinator

Old: Mark Helfrich • New: Bill Lazor

Lazor's 13 years of NFL coaching experience have included stints with Joe Gibbs and Mike Holmgren, and he has tutored quarterbacks such as Nick Foles and Ryan Tannehill.

DALLAS COWBOYS

Defensive Coordinator

Old: Rod Marinelli • New: Mike Nolan

Most recently the linebackers coach in New Orleans, Nolan was last a defensive coordinator in 2012-14 for the Falcons.

DETROIT LIONS

Defensive Coordinator

Old: Paul Pasqualoni • New: Cory Undlin

Undlin, a first-time coordinator, inherits a Lions defense that had an abysmal 2019 season, ranking last in the NFL in pass defense.

LOS ANGELES RAMS

Offensive Coordinator

Old: None • New: Kevin O'Connell

O'Connell will attempt to revive a Rams offense that suffered a decline in 2019. He'll have more to work with than he did in his last job — as offensive coordinator for the Redskins in 2019.

LOS ANGELES RAMS

Defensive Coordinator

Old: Wade Phillips • New: Brandon Staley

Staley's previous experience at the pro level consists of working with linebackers in Chicago (2017-18) and Denver (2019).

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Offensive Coordinator

Old: Kevin Stefanski • New: Gary Kubiak

Kubiak is the rare coordinator hire who has won a Super Bowl as a head coach (Denver, Super Bowl 50). Kubiak was assistant head coach and offensive advisor for Mike Zimmer's Vikings in 2019.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Defensive Coordinator

Old: George Edwards • New: Adam Zimmer/Andre Patterson

There will be no communication difficulties in Minnesota, as Zimmer and Patterson have worked together for years and are intimately familiar with their boss's preferences.

Offensive Player of the Year

Drew Brees, QB, New Orleans

Defensive Player of the Year

Nick Bosa, Edge, San Francisco

Comeback Player of the Year

Rob Gronkowski, TE, Tampa Bay

Offensive Rookie of the Year

CeeDee Lamb, WR, Dallas

Defensive Rookie of the Year

Chase Young, Edge, Washington

Coach of the Year

Bruce Arians, Tampa Bay

NEW YORK GIANTS

Offensive Coordinator

Old: Mike Shula • New: Jason Garrett

Garrett was the head coach in Dallas for 10 seasons and last year boasted the NFL's No. 1 offense with the Cowboys.

NEW YORK GIANTS

Defensive Coordinator

Old: James Bettcher • New: Patrick Graham

Graham made the most of a bad situation in Miami. The Giants beefed up their secondary, which could give Graham an opportunity to use blitzes to disrupt opposing offenses.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Offensive Coordinator

Old: Mike Groh• New: Press Taylor (pass-game coordinator), Jeff Stoutland (run-game coordinator), Rich Scangarello (senior offensive assistant)

The Eagles should be more creative with their three-pronged approach to the coordinator job.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Offensive Coordinator

Old: Kevin O'Connell • New: Scott Turner

Turner, the son of former Redskins head coach Norv Turner, was most recently the QBs coach under Ron Rivera in Carolina and was named interim offensive coordinator in December.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Defensive Coordinator

Old: Greg Manusky • New: Jack Del Rio

The ultimate NFL retread, Del Rio is still a highly regarded defensive mind and should command respect from his young unit.

Dallas COWBOYS

NFC East Forecast: 1

Owner Jerry Jones is hoping that Mike McCarthy as the head coach of the Cowboys is a marriage made in NFL heaven. Jones says he "heard bells" in his first meeting with McCarthy, who went 125–77–2 in the regular season in his 13 seasons as Packers head coach and won a Super Bowl. The Cowboys hired him to replace Jason Garrett, who won two postseason games in his nine and a half seasons as the team's head coach.

"One of our primary goals in selecting the head coach of the Dallas Cowboys was to focus on a proven team-builder and winner. Someone who's got a proven track record of winning not only consistently, but at the highest level," Jones says. "[In] Mike McCarthy, we found a coach who not only checked those boxes, but also has the experience of taking an NFL team to the biggest stage, the Super Bowl, and completing the job."

On paper, the Cowboys bear similarities to many of McCarthy's Packers teams. They are oozing with offensive talent, but they may need to outscore opponents. The defense appears to be somewhat lacking. McCarthy, though, gives Jones and the Cowboys hope.

OFFENSE Dak Prescott, Ezekiel Elliott and Amari Cooper give Dallas the 2020s version of the Triplets. Prescott, like Troy Aikman, ultimately will determine how far the Cowboys go. He has a 40–24 record, but he has won only one postseason game in four seasons. Prescott, 27, had seven 300-yard passing games last season, two more than he had in his first three seasons combined. He averaged a career-best 8.2 yards per attempt and has proved he can get the ball downfield when he has a receiver who can get open. The Cowboys signed Andy Dalton to back up Prescott, the first time since Prescott's rookie season that he has had a veteran starter behind him.

Elliott held out of training camp in a contract dispute a year ago. The Cowboys paid him, but the running back didn't repay them on the field. He had a career-low four rushes over 20 yards, with a long of 33. Elliott's lack of big plays led to questions about whether he had lost a step. He will get another chance this season to prove he was worth the money. Tony Pollard arrived in last year's draft to back up Elliott, but he was so good as a rookie that the Cowboys want to find a way to get him more involved this season. The Cowboys used fullback Jamize Olawale on 10.5 percent of their offensive snaps last season, the same as the previous year, but he could see more playing time in McCarthy's offense.

The Cowboys opened the checkbook to keep Cooper. But Cooper's numbers on the road don't compare favorably to his numbers at home. Last season, Cooper caught 52 passes for 869 yards and five touchdowns at AT&T Stadium but managed only 27 receptions for 320 yards and three touchdowns in road games. Cooper did play hurt, spending most of the season on the injury report with injuries to a foot, a quadriceps, an ankle and a knee. Michael Gallup proved a capable starter opposite Cooper with his first 1,000-yard season. The Cowboys couldn't pass up CeeDee Lamb when he fell to them at No. 17 in the first round of the draft. Lamb will take over the slot.

The Cowboys didn't have much interest in Jason Witten's return, as his unretirement proved a progress-stopper for Blake Jarwin in 2019. Jarwin played only 39 percent of the snaps but caught 31 passes for 365 yards and three touchdowns. The Cowboys signed Jarwin to a long-term deal as Witten's replacement.

Center Travis Frederick abruptly retired a year after returning from Guillain-Barré syndrome.

THE ORGANIZATION

Owner/President/General Manager: Jerry Jones
COO/Executive VP/Director of Player Personnel: Stephen Jones
VP of Player Personnel: Will McClay
Senior Director of Football Operations: Todd Williams
Stadium: AT&T Stadium (80,000)
Surface: FieldTurf
Website: www.dallascowboys.com
Tickets: 817-892-5000
Training Camp: River Ridge Playing Fields (Oxnard, Calif.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Mike McCarthy
Record With Team: 0-0
Career Record: 125-77-2
Offensive Coordinator: Kellen Moore
Defensive Coordinator/Defensive Line: Mike Nolan
Special Teams Coordinator: John Fassel
Quarterbacks: Doug Nussmeier
Running Backs: Skip Peete
Wide Receivers: Adam Henry
Tight Ends: Lunda Wells
Offensive Line: Joe Philbin
Defensive Line: Jim Tomsula
Linebackers: Scott McCurley
Defensive Backs: Al Harris
Defensive Backs: Maurice Linguist

2020 SCHEDULE

2019 NFL RANKINGS

Date	Opponent	Time	2019 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 13	at L.A. Rams	8:20	9-7	374.9 (7)	339.6 (13)	24.6 (11)	22.8 (17)
Sept. 20	Atlanta	1:00	7-9	379.7 (5)	355.8 (20)	23.8 (13)	24.9 (23)
Sept. 27	at Seattle	4:25	11-5	374.4 (8)	381.6 (26)	25.3 (9)	24.9 (22)
Oct. 4	Cleveland	1:00	6-10	340.9 (22)	361.6 (22)	20.9 (22)	24.6 (20)
Oct. 11	N.Y. Giants	4:25	4-12	338.5 (23)	377.3 (25)	21.3 (t18)	28.2 (30)
Oct. 19	Arizona (Mon.)	8:15	5-10-1	341.7 (21)	402.0 (32)	22.6 (t16)	27.6 (28)
Oct. 25	at Washington	1:00	3-13	274.7 (31)	385.1 (27)	16.6 (32)	27.2 (27)
Nov. 1	at Philadelphia	8:20	9-7	360.8 (14)	331.7 (10)	24.1 (12)	22.1 (15)
Nov. 8	Pittsburgh	4:25	8-8	276.8 (30)	304.1 (5)	18.1 (27)	18.9 (t5)
BYE							
Nov. 22	at Minnesota	4:25	10-6	353.5 (16)	341.6 (14)	25.4 (8)	18.9 (t5)
Nov. 26	Washington (Thu.)	4:30	3-13	274.7 (31)	385.1 (27)	16.6 (32)	27.2 (27)
Dec. 3	at Baltimore (Thu.)	8:20	14-2	407.6 (2)	300.6 (4)	33.2 (1)	17.6 (3)
Dec. 13	at Cincinnati	1:00	2-14	323.1 (26)	393.7 (29)	17.4 (30)	26.2 (25)
Dec. 20	San Francisco	8:20	13-3	381.1 (4)	281.8 (2)	29.9 (2)	19.4 (8)
Dec. 27	Philadelphia	4:25	9-7	360.8 (14)	331.7 (10)	24.1 (12)	22.1 (15)
Jan. 3	at N.Y. Giants	1:00	4-12	338.5 (23)	377.3 (25)	21.3 (t18)	28.2 (30)

Bruce Schwartzman

Ezekiel Elliott

RUNNING BACK

Joe Looney replaced Frederick in 2018, starting every game at center while Frederick was out with his autoimmune disorder. Looney was functional in the role, but the Cowboys are better served with him as their interior backup. They will try both Connor Williams and Connor McGovern at center in training camp, with hopes that Williams proves up to the task. If Williams can convert to center, McGovern will take over at Williams' left guard spot. Zack Martin is the best right guard in the NFL, earning Pro Bowl honors for a sixth time in six seasons and All-Pro for a fourth time in 2019. Left tackle Tyron Smith joined Martin on the league's All-Decade Team for the 2010s, and he remains one of the game's best. Right tackle La'el Collins was the team's most consistent lineman last season.

Dak Prescott

Bruce Schwartzman

DEFENSE The Cowboys are rolling the dice that the NFL clears Aldon Smith and Randy Gregory to return from indefinite suspensions and that they can remain on the active roster. Both have the body types to fit defensive coordinator Mike Nolan's designated pass rusher position. Although the Cowboys will play a base 4-3, they will have multiple looks that allow them to utilize variations with body types in rushing situations. The war daddy pass rusher remains DeMarcus Lawrence, but he had only five sacks last season. Dorance Armstrong and Joe Jackson provide depth at defensive end, and fifth-round choice Bradlee Anae could carve out a role. Tyrone Crawford, a team captain, returns from hip surgery that ended his season after only four games. He can play end or tackle. It appears the Cowboys already have given up on defensive tackle Trysten Hill after only one season, prompting them to sign Dontari Poe and Gerald McCoy in free agency and draft Oklahoma's Neville Gallimore in the third round.

The Cowboys have a solid trio of starting linebackers when they are healthy. But middle linebacker Jaylon Smith missed his entire rookie season in 2016; strongside linebacker Sean Lee has missed 51 of 160 career games; and weakside linebacker Leighton Vander Esch sat out seven games with a neck injury last season. Vander Esch had minimally invasive surgery to fix a nerve issue, so the Cowboys are hoping he can return to the Pro Bowl form of his rookie season. Lee has returned for an 11th season after playing all 16 games for the first time in his career in 2019. Smith has remained healthy the past three seasons, but he has yet to live up to his draft position or his contract extension.

The Cowboys couldn't afford to keep defensive back Byron Jones this offseason and drafted Alabama's Trevon Diggs to replace him, and they used a third-day pick on Tulsa's Reggie Robinson II while looking to the future. Chidobe Awuzie, Jourdan Lewis and Anthony Brown are the top returning cornerbacks, but Lewis and Awuzie are free agents in 2021. Dallas appears to have upgraded at safety, signing Ha Ha Clinton-Dix. Xavier Woods, the starting free safety last season, is underrated.

SPECIALISTS The Cowboys were one of the league's worst special teams units the past two seasons. Thus, one of McCarthy's first hires was John Fassel, one of the league's best special teams coaches. Veteran kicker Greg Zuerlein followed Fassel from the Rams, and Zuerlein will compete with veteran Kai Forbath for the job. Forbath arrived at midseason in 2019 and made all 10 of his field-goal attempts. Punter Chris Jones had career lows in 2019 with a 41.6-yard average and a 37.0 net, and it won't come as a great surprise if the Cowboys look for another punter. Pollard, a fourth-round choice in 2019, likely will handle the team's returns after tying the FBS career record with seven kick-return touchdowns in three seasons at Memphis. But Lamb and Diggs also are capable returners.

FINAL ANALYSIS One of Garrett's mantras was "Finish." He couldn't, which is why he is now the Giants' offensive coordinator. The last time the Cowboys played in an NFC Championship Game (1995), Garrett was the team's backup QB. Detroit and Washington are the only other teams not to reach the NFC title game since the last time the Cowboys were there. McCarthy now gets a chance to see if he can finish what Garrett started.

2019 RESULTS (8-8)

Sept. 8	N.Y. Giants	W	35-17
Sept. 15	at Washington	W	31-21
Sept. 22	Miami	W	31-6
Sept. 29	at New Orleans	L	10-12
Oct. 6	Green Bay	L	24-34
Oct. 13	at N.Y. Jets	L	22-24
Oct. 20	Philadelphia	W	37-10
Nov. 4	at N.Y. Giants	W	37-18
Nov. 10	Minnesota	L	24-28
Nov. 17	at Detroit	W	35-27
Nov. 24	at New England	L	9-13
Nov. 28	Buffalo	L	15-26
Dec. 5	at Chicago	L	24-31
Dec. 15	L.A. Rams	W	44-21
Dec. 22	at Philadelphia	L	9-17
Dec. 29	Washington	W	47-16

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Dak Prescott	596	388	4,902	30	11

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Ezekiel Elliott	301	1,357	4.5	12
Tony Pollard	86	455	5.3	2
Dak Prescott	52	277	5.3	3

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Amari Cooper	79	1,189	15.1	8
Michael Gallup	66	1,107	16.8	6
Randall Cobb	55	828	15.1	3
Jason Witten	63	529	8.4	4
Ezekiel Elliott	54	420	7.8	2
Blake Jarwin	31	365	11.8	3

KICKING: Brett Maher, 20-30 FGs, 36-36 PAT, 96 points; Kai Forbath, 10-10 FGs, 10-10 PAT, 40 points

TACKLES: Jaylon Smith, 142; Sean Lee, 86

SACKS: Robert Quinn, 11.5; DeMarcus Lawrence, 5.0

INTERCEPTIONS: Xavier Woods, 2; Jourdan Lewis, 2

2019 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	431.5	1	1
Rushing	134.6	5	3
Passing	296.9	2	2
Scoring	27.1	6	4
Third Down %	42.9	2	1
Punt Returns	5.7	T26	13
Kick Returns	16.3	32	16

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	327.0	9	3
Rushing	103.5	11	5
Passing	223.5	10	3
Scoring	20.1	11	5
Interceptions	7	T30	T14
Sacks	39	19	11
Turnover Differential	-1	T18	T9

Scouting the Cowboys

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP DALLAS "Owner Jerry Jones has put together arguably one of the league's most talented rosters, but they've constantly underperformed. ... QB Dak Prescott led an offense that was statistically impressive, but he hasn't been able to take this team deep into the playoffs, causing a stalemate over his desired $40 million annual asking price. ... Pro Bowl RB Ezekiel Elliott was once again the foundation for this offense with 1,357 yards and 12 TDs. ... Amari Cooper became the second-highest-paid WR in the NFL, and Michael Gallup emerged as a reliable No. 2 WR, but the unit got stronger with the addition of rookie WR CeeDee Lamb. ... They've had a top-three OL for years, led by All-Pros LT Tyron Smith and RG Zack Martin, but the biggest excitement came from the emergence of RT La'el Collins, who played at a Pro Bowl level. There's a big void, though, with the retirement of Pro Bowl C Travis Frederick. ... Defensively, they got stouter with the signing of DTs Gerald McCoy and Dontari Poe, but they lost leading sack artist Robert Quinn. ... This is a top-three ILB unit with Pro Bowler Jaylon Smith, star Leighton Vander Esch and leader Sean Lee. ... CB Byron Jones departed to Miami and became the richest CB in the NFL, but they still have serviceable role players and drafted Trevon Diggs. They're satisfied with safety Xavier Woods, they re-signed Darian Thompson and added veteran Ha Ha Clinton-Dix. ... They're in the weakest division and need to capitalize ASAP."

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
TE	Blake Bell	Kansas City
CB	Maurice Canady	N.Y. Jets
S	Ha Ha Clinton-Dix	Chicago
DT	Gerald McCoy	Carolina
DT	Dontari Poe	Carolina
EDGE	Aldon Smith	Suspension
CB	Saivion Smith	Jacksonville
CB	Daryl Worley	Las Vegas
K	Greg Zuerlein	L.A. Rams

KEY LOSSES −

POS.	PLAYER	2020 TEAM
WR	Randall Cobb	Houston
DT	Maliek Collins	Las Vegas
S	Kavon Frazier	Free Agent
C	Travis Frederick	Retired
S	Jeff Heath	Las Vegas
CB	Byron Jones	Miami
DE	Robert Quinn	Chicago
OG	Xavier Su'a-Filo	Cincinnati
TE	Jason Witten	Las Vegas

Offseason Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR	13	Michael Gallup	15	Devin Smith
WR	88	CeeDee Lamb (R)	11	Cedrick Wilson
WR	19	Amari Cooper	83	Ventell Bryant
LT	77	Tyron Smith	65	Mitch Hyatt
LG	52	Connor Williams	66	Connor McGovern
C	73	Joe Looney	66	Connor McGovern
RG	70	Zack Martin	61	Adam Redmond
RT	71	La'el Collins	69	Brandon Knight
TE	89	Blake Jarwin	80	Blake Bell
QB	4	Dak Prescott		Andy Dalton
RB	21	Ezekiel Elliott	20	Tony Pollard

DEFENSE

DE	58	Aldon Smith	98	Tyrone Crawford
DT	93	Gerald McCoy	75	Neville Gallimore (R)
DT	95	Dontari Poe	97	Trysten Hill
DE	90	DeMarcus Lawrence	94	Randy Gregory
WLB	55	Leighton Vander Esch	48	Joe Thomas
MLB	54	Jaylon Smith	53	Justin March
SLB	50	Sean Lee	57	Luke Gifford
CB	26	Jourdan Lewis	31	Trevon Diggs (R)
CB	24	Chidobe Awuzie	30	Anthony Brown
SS	27	Ha Ha Clinton-Dix	37	Donovan Wilson
FS	25	Xavier Woods	23	Darian Thompson

SPECIALISTS

K	2	Greg Zuerlein	KR	20	Tony Pollard
P	6	Chris Jones	PR	20	Tony Pollard

2020 VETERAN COWBOYS ROSTER

	QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
	Dalton, Andy	QB	6-2	220	9	TCU	FA-Cin-20	D2-Cin-11
4	Prescott, Dak	QB	6-2	235	4	Mississippi State	D4b-16	D4b-Dal-16
5	Thorson, Clayton	QB	6-4	222	1	Northwestern	FA-19	D5-Phi-19
	RUNNING BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
46	Chunn, Jordan	RB	6-0	230	1	Troy	FA-18	FA-Dal-18
21	Elliott, Ezekiel	RB	6-0	228	4	Ohio State	D1-16	D1-Dal-16
49	Olawale, Jamize	FB	6-1	242	8	North Texas	T-LV-18	FA-Dal-12
20	Pollard, Tony	RB	6-0	215	1	Memphis	D4a-19	D4a-Dal-19
	RECEIVERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
80	Bell, Blake	TE	6-6	252	5	Oklahoma	FA-KC-20	D4-SF-15
85	Brown, Noah	WR	6-2	222	3	Ohio State	D7b-17	D7b-Dal-17
83	Bryant, Ventell	WR	6-3	205	1	Temple	FA-19	FA-Cin-19
19	Cooper, Amari	WR	6-1	225	5	Alabama	T-LV-18	D1-LV-15
13	Gallup, Michael	WR	6-1	205	2	Colorado State	D3-18	D3-Dal-18
87	Hikutini, Cole	TE	6-4	240	2	Louisville	FA-19	FA-SF-17
89	Jarwin, Blake	TE	6-5	260	3	Oklahoma State	FA-17	FA-Dal-17
81	Johnson, Jon'Vea	WR	6-0	195	1	Toledo	FA-19	FA-Dal-19
14	Jones, Tevin	WR	6-2	225	1	Memphis	FA-19	FA-Hou-16
86	Schultz, Dalton	TE	6-5	260	2	Stanford	D4b-18	D4b-Dal-18
15	Smith, Devin	WR	6-1	205	3	Ohio State	FA-19	D2-NYJ-15
11	Wilson, Cedrick	WR	6-2	200	2	Boise State	D6b-18	D6b-Dal-18
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
71	Collins, La'el	T	6-4	323	5	LSU	FA-15	FA-Dal-15
	Erving, Cam	T	6-5	313	5	Florida State	FA-KC-20	D1-Cle-15
62	Henry, Marcus	C	6-3	293	1	Boise State	FA-19	FA-NO-16
65	Hyatt, Mitch	T	6-5	305	1	Clemson	FA-19	FA-Dal-19
69	Knight, Brandon	T	6-4	310	1	Indiana	FA-19	FA-Dal-19
73	Looney, Joe	C	6-3	315	8	Wake Forest	FA-Ten-16	D4-SF-12
70	Martin, Zack	G	6-4	315	6	Notre Dame	D1-14	D1-Dal-14
66	McGovern, Connor	G/C	6-5	316	1	Penn State	D3-19	D3-Dal-19
61	Redmond, Adam	G/C	6-6	310	2	Harvard	W-Buf-18	FA-Ind-16
77	Smith, Tyron	T	6-5	320	9	USC	D1-11	D1-Dal-11
78	Wichmann, Cody	G	6-5	320	3	Fresno State	FA-18	D6-LAR-16
52	Williams, Connor	G	6-5	320	2	Texas	D2-18	D2-Dal-18
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
92	Armstrong, Dorance	DE	6-4	262	2	Kansas	D4a-18	D4a-Dal-18
98	Crawford, Tyrone	DL	6-4	285	8	Boise State	D3-12	D3-Dal-12
94	Gregory, Randy	DE	6-5	242	2	Nebraska	D2-16	D2-Dal-16
79	Hamilton, Justin	DT	6-2	315	2	UL Lafayette	FA-20	FA-Buf-15
97	Hill, Trysten	DT	6-3	310	1	UCF	D2-19	D2-Dal-19
56	Jackson, Joe	DE	6-4	285	1	Miami	D5b-19	D5b-Dal-19
74	Jelks, Jalen	DE	6-5	260	1	Oregon	D7b-19	D7b-Dal-19
90	Lawrence, DeMarcus	DE	6-3	265	6	Boise State	D2-14	D2-Dal-14
93	McCoy, Gerald	DT	6-4	300	10	Oklahoma	FA-Car-20	D1-TB-10
95	Poe, Dontari	DT	6-3	346	8	Memphis	FA-Car-20	D1-KC-12
58	Smith, Aldon	DE	6-4	265	5	Missouri	FA-20	D1-SF-11
64	Wise, Daniel	DE	6-3	285	1	Kansas	FA-19	FA-Dal-19
99	Woods, Antwaun	DT	6-1	310	2	USC	FA-18	FA-Ten-16
	LINEBACKERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
57	Gifford, Luke	LB	6-3	245	1	Nebraska	FA-19	FA-Dal-19
50	Lee, Sean	LB	6-2	245	10	Penn State	D2-10	D2-Dal-10
53	March, Justin	LB	5-11	232	5	Akron	FA-17	FA-KC-15
54	Smith, Jaylon	LB	6-2	248	4	Notre Dame	D2-16	D2-Dal-16
48	Thomas, Joe	LB	6-1	233	5	South Carolina St.	FA-18	FA-GB-14
55	Vander Esch, Leighton	LB	6-4	255	2	Boise State	D1-18	D1-Dal-18
	DEFENSIVE BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
24	Awuzie, Chidobe	CB	6-0	203	3	Colorado	D2-17	D2-Dal-17
30	Brown, Anthony	CB	5-11	198	4	Purdue	D6a-16	D6a-Dal-16
33	Burton, Deante	CB	6-2	205	2	Kansas State	PS-Ind-19	FA-Ind-17
28	Canady, Maurice	CB	6-1	193	4	Virginia	FA-NYJ-20	D6b-Bal-16
27	Clinton-Dix, Ha Ha	S	6-1	211	6	Alabama	FA-Chi-20	D1-GB-14
29	Goodwin, C.J.	CB	6-3	198	4	California (PA)	PS-Cin-18	FA-Pit-14
26	Lewis, Jourdan	CB	5-10	195	3	Michigan	D3-17	D3-Dal-17
32	Olumba, Donovan	CB	6-2	205	1	Portland State	FA-18	FA-Dal-18
	Smith, Saivion	CB	6-1	199	1	Alabama	FA-20	FA-Jac-19
23	Thompson, Darian	S	6-2	212	4	Boise State	FA-18	D3-NYG-16
39	Westry, Chris	CB	6-4	210	1	Kentucky	FA-19	FA-Dal-19
37	Wilson, Donovan	S	6-0	208	1	Texas A&M	D6-19	D6-Dal-19
25	Woods, Xavier	S	5-11	208	3	Louisiana Tech	D6a-17	D6a-Dal-17
	Worley, Daryl	CB	6-1	215	4	West Virginia	FA-LV-20	D3-Car-16
	SPECIALISTS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
3	Forbath, Kai	K	6-0	191	8	UCLA	FA-19	FA-Dal-11
	Fortunato, Joe	LS	6-5	240	1	Delaware	FA-20	FA-Ind-17
6	Jones, Chris	P	6-0	205	8	Carson Newman	FA-11	FA-Dal-11
91	Ladouceur, Louis-Philippe	LS	6-5	256	15	California	FA-05	FA-NO-05
2	Zuerlein, Greg	K	6-0	191	8	Missouri Western	FA-LAR-20	D6-LAR-12

Jay Biggerstaff

Cowboys *in the Draft* | Grade: A

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	**CeeDee Lamb**	**WR**	**6-2**	**189**	**Oklahoma**
2.	Trevon Diggs	CB	6-2	205	Alabama
3.	Neville Gallimore	DT	6-2	302	Oklahoma
4.	Reggie Robinson II	CB	6-1	205	Tulsa
4.	Tyler Biadasz	C	6-3	316	Wisconsin
5.	Bradlee Anae	DE	6-3	257	Utah
7.	Ben DiNucci	QB	6-3	209	James Madison

The Cowboys went into the draft intent on taking the best defensive player with their first choice. But the unforeseen happened — Oklahoma receiver CeeDee Lamb was available. Cowboys owner Jerry Jones repeatedly has said one of his biggest draft-day regrets was passing on Randy Moss in 1998. He wasn't going to pass on another game-breaking receiver. As luck would have it, CB Trevon Diggs was still there for the taking in the second round. So they found a replacement for Byron Jones, who departed for the Dolphins in free agency. Neville Gallimore was necessary after last year's top choice, second-rounder Trysten Hill, proved to be a bust. Reggie Robinson II gives the Cowboys more future depth at cornerback with several of their returning corners entering the final year of their contracts. Wisconsin center Tyler Biadasz has a chance to win the starting job with the retirement of Travis Frederick. Bradlee Anae could provide depth at defensive end. Ben DiNucci is a developmental prospect.

Outside the Huddle

MOVING ON The Cowboys could have had Jason Witten back. They chose to move on, which says more about Blake Jarwin than it does Witten. The Cowboys committed to Jarwin with a four-year, $22 million deal with $9.25 million guaranteed. Instead of being Witten's backup, Jarwin is his replacement.

THE SAME, EXCEPT DIFFERENT The Cowboys retained offensive coordinator and play-caller Kellen Moore and are keeping the same terminology as last season. But… "It's going to be a different offense, but we want to make sure that we build off of the conceptual success that was in place, not only just with what Dak [Prescott] has done, but what the offense line and Zeke [Elliott] and what Amari [Cooper] and what has been established here," Mike McCarthy says.

TOP OF THEIR CLASS The Cowboys have 10 first-round draft choices on their roster: Gerald McCoy (Bucs, 2010), Tyron Smith (2011), Aldon Smith (49ers, 2011), Dontari Poe (Chiefs, 2012), Zack Martin (2014), Ha Ha Clinton-Dix (Packers, 2014), Amari Cooper (Raiders, 2015), Ezekiel Elliott (2016), Leighton Vander Esch (2018) and CeeDee Lamb (2020).

SECOND CHANCE U Aldon Smith is only the latest player the Cowboys have provided with a second chance. The Cowboys have had mixed results with the likes of Charles Haley, Pacman Jones, David Irving, Dimitrius Underwood, Greg Hardy, Alonzo Spellman, Rolando McClain and Tank Johnson.

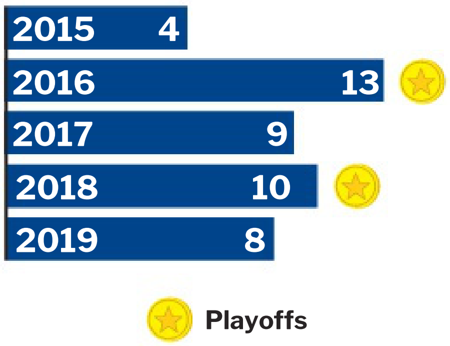
UNBREAKABLE Aldon Smith, who hasn't played since 2015, began working on a return with the Merging Vets and Players program at Jay Glazer's Unbreakable gym. The defensive end trained with military members back from Afghanistan or Iraq and participated in open therapy sessions. Many of the veterans in the program are dealing with depression, alcohol and/or substance abuse issues like Smith. Mike McCarthy worked out at the gym in December while visiting his daughter, an aspiring actress, and he formed an instant bond with Smith.

TARGETING AMARI Redskins head coach Ron Rivera confirmed that his team had more than a passing interest in Amari Cooper in free agency. Washington offered more money than the Cowboys did, but Cooper chose to re-sign with Dallas. (Texas has no state income tax.) Cooper signed a five-year, $100 million deal with the Cowboys.

RING'S THE THING Owner Jerry Jones went into the Pro Football of Fame in 2017. Former coach Jimmy Johnson will earn a spot in Canton in August. Jones makes up the one-man committee that controls the inductees into the team's Ring of Honor. Jones has announced that the Cowboys will not induct Johnson in the Ring of Honor in 2020, but he sounds open to making it happen in the future.

SIGH OF RELIEF There was some concern about the long-term outlook for linebacker Leighton Vander Esch after he injured his neck last year, finishing the season on injured reserve. The prognosis improved after doctors determined he'd need minimally invasive surgery to fix a nerve problem. Vander Esch now is fully cleared to resume football activities.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



NUMBERS TO KNOW

33.3

The Cowboys held opposing offenses to a 33.3 percent conversion rate on third downs, second lowest in the NFL behind New England.

39.99

The Cowboys averaged 39.99 yards per offensive drive, second most in the NFL.

9.3

Per NFL Next Gen Stats, Dak Prescott's average depth per target increased from 7.6 yards in 2018 to 9.3 yards in 2019.

New York GIANTS

NFC East Forecast: 3

THE ORGANIZATION

President/CEO: John K. Mara, Esq.
Chairman/Executive VP: Steve Tisch
Senior VP/General Manager: Dave Gettleman
Senior VP of Player Personnel: Chris Mara
Stadium: MetLife Stadium (82,500)
Surface: Artificial Turf
Website: www.giants.com
Tickets: 888-NYG-1925 (694)
Training Camp: Quest Diagnostic Training Center (East Rutherford, N.J.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Joe Judge
Record With Team: 0-0
Career Record: 0-0
Offensive Coordinator: Jason Garrett
Assistant Head Coach/Defensive Coordinator: Patrick Graham
Special Teams Coordinator: Thomas McGaughey
Quarterbacks: Jerry Schuplinski
Running Backs: Burton Burns
Wide Receivers: Tyke Tolbert
Tight Ends: Freddie Kitchens
Offensive Line: Marc Colombo
Defensive Line: Sean Spencer
Inside Linebackers: Kever Sherrer
Outside Linebackers/Senior Assistant: Bret Bielema
Defensive Backs: Jerome Henderson

For the third time in five years, the Giants are starting over. That's an unprecedented level of turnover for a franchise that was once a model of stubborn stability. And this time they're doing it in an unconventional way, with a 38-year-old rookie head coach plucked out of obscurity and an unpopular holdover general manager who turned 69 earlier this year.

Sure, Giants fans have heard this before, but ownership thinks its new approach will work, and the odd couple of GM Dave Gettleman and head coach Joe Judge will be good for each other. And they're banking on a lot, considering the franchise has lost 11-plus games for three straight seasons, has had double-digit losses in five of its last six years and has made the playoffs just once since 2011. It's as bad a streak as the Giants have ever had.

But they are hopeful it's about to end. They believe Judge, the former Patriots special teams coach, will inject some youthful energy and a little magic from that dynasty he left up in New England. And they are hopeful that three years of drafts from Gettleman are about to bear fruit.

If not, Gettleman will almost certainly be nudged into retirement after the season, and everything about the way the Giants do business might have to change.

OFFENSE Even though it took Judge four months to say the name "Daniel Jones," don't be fooled: This is Jones' team now. The Giants could not have been more thrilled with his rookie season, even under difficult circumstances. His turnovers — particularly his fumbles — were a bit high (18 in 13 games), but that's not unusual for a rookie. And the Giants expect he'll quickly blossom now that the retired Eli Manning is gone.

He certainly has enough weapons around him. Saquon Barkley, if healthy, still has the power, speed and moves to be the best running back in the NFL. Golden Tate proved to be a reliable and still-dangerous receiver last year, and if Sterling Shepard can stay on the field, he's the possession receiver every team needs. Best of all, while Shepard was out, Jones and his fellow rookie Darius Slayton developed some chemistry. Slayton has the speed and explosiveness to be a big-play receiver and deep threat.

If there are any questions, they're at tight end and along the offensive line. And tight end is really only an issue if Evan Engram gets hurt again or is slow to recover from offseason foot surgery. When healthy, he's dynamic and a major mismatch (58.4 yards per game in eight games last season). And the Giants signed big Levine Toilolo to be the primary blocker at tight end, freeing up Engram to be a receiver.

As for the line, drafting Andrew Thomas will help a lot, and it's deeper with young talent than it's been in years. Unfortunately, Nate Solder has done nothing but struggle in his two years with the Giants, and there's a major hole at center, where Jon Halapio is coming off a torn Achilles. Jones should get more protection than last year, but the line is still most definitely in flux.

DEFENSE It's been bad — really bad — for the last two years, but this has a chance to be a much-improved unit. It is loaded with young players whom Gettleman has either drafted or signed in the last three years. Almost the entire defense is 26 and younger. And this is the season the GM expects all that young talent to arrive. Gettleman likes to say it all starts up front, and he definitely has added some potential there. He drafted the big and strong Dexter Lawrence in the first round in 2019 and acquired

2020 SCHEDULE			2019 NFL RANKINGS				
Date	Opponent	Time	2019 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 14	Pittsburgh (Mon.)	7:15	8-8	276.8 (30)	304.1 (5)	18.1 (27)	18.9 (t5)
Sept. 20	at Chicago	1:00	8-8	296.8 (29)	324.1 (8)	17.5 (29)	18.6 (4)
Sept. 27	San Francisco	1:00	13-3	381.1 (4)	281.8 (2)	29.9 (2)	19.4 (8)
Oct. 4	at L.A. Rams	4:05	9-7	374.9 (7)	339.6 (13)	24.6 (11)	22.8 (17)
Oct. 11	at Dallas	4:25	8-8	431.5 (1)	327.0 (9)	27.1 (6)	20.1 (11)
Oct. 18	Washington	1:00	3-13	274.7 (31)	385.1 (27)	16.6 (32)	27.2 (27)
Oct. 22	at Philadelphia (Thu.)	8:20	9-7	360.8 (14)	331.7 (10)	24.1 (12)	22.1 (15)
Nov. 2	Tampa Bay (Mon.)	8:15	7-9	397.9 (3)	343.9 (15)	28.6 (t3)	28.1 (29)
Nov. 8	at Washington	1:00	3-13	274.7 (31)	385.1 (27)	16.6 (32)	27.2 (27)
Nov. 15	Philadelphia	1:00	9-7	360.8 (14)	331.7 (10)	24.1 (12)	22.1 (15)
BYE							
Nov. 29	at Cincinnati	1:00	2-14	323.1 (26)	393.7 (29)	17.4 (30)	26.2 (25)
Dec. 6	at Seattle	4:05	11-5	374.4 (8)	381.6 (26)	25.3 (9)	24.9 (22)
Dec. 13	Arizona	1:00	5-10-1	341.7 (21)	402.0 (32)	22.6 (t16)	27.6 (28)
Dec. 20	Cleveland	1:00	6-10	340.9 (22)	361.6 (22)	20.9 (22)	24.6 (20)
Dec. 27	at Baltimore	1:00	14-2	407.6 (2)	300.6 (4)	33.2 (1)	17.6 (3)
Jan. 3	Dallas	1:00	8-8	431.5 (1)	327.0 (9)	27.1 (6)	20.1 (11)

Saquon Barkley

RUNNING BACK

Daniel Jones

Leonard Williams from the Jets in October. Williams has never been the pass rusher everyone wants him to be, but he's a good run defender and strong enough to collapse the pocket.

The Giants are missing players who can sack the quarterback, but they are hoping the scheme of new defensive coordinator Patrick Graham can find sacks with a team effort. Much of the responsibility will fall to newly signed edge rusher Kyler Fackrell, who had 10.5 sacks playing for Graham in Green Bay two years ago. But the Giants are also counting on Lorenzo Carter, who has flashed speed at times but hasn't been consistent. Maybe it's a lot to ask, but they dream of the two forming a fast 1-2 punch off the edge.

The rest of the defense is more than solid. Free agent Blake Martinez is the smart, speedy linebacker they feel they need in the middle to pull everything together. And they signed cornerback James Bradberry to pair with DeAndre Baker, another first-rounder from 2019, at cornerback. Baker struggled his rookie year, but his issue was more blown assignments than a lack of talent. Of course, his status is up in the air after he was arrested on charges of armed robbery and aggravated assault in May. If he ends up suspended by the NFL, or worse, his job would likely fall to Sam Beal, a third-round pick in the 2018 supplemental draft who has played only six games in two seasons.

The best part of the Giants' defense, meanwhile, should be the back end. Jabrill Peppers was beginning to emerge as an impact player and leader last year before he fractured his back. He's a strong, box-type safety, and now he's paired with 2020 second-rounder Xavier McKinney, a versatile safety who figures to complement him as the center fielder.

So their pass rush might not be dominant, but the Giants have built a strong enough back end that maybe that won't matter as much.

SPECIALISTS After a Pro Bowl 2018 season, last year was a huge disappointment for Aldrick Rosas. He didn't get a lot of work, but when he did, he was erratic, connecting on just 12-of-17 for a conversion rate that ranked No. 29 in the league. The Giants brought him back because he showed a lot of promise in 2017-18, hitting 86.2 percent of his field goals. He could have been affected by a lack of action last year.

Their punter, Riley Dixon, is much more reliable. He's got a strong leg and is a good directional kicker. He's got all the tools that Judge, a former special teams coach, will love. And they hope they bought some consistency in ex-Broncos long-snapper Casey Kreiter, who has the experience they needed to replace Zak DeOssie.

Tate (on punt returns) and Corey Ballentine (on kickoff returns) are the pseudo-incumbents on returns, but neither has the ideal speed or moves for those spots. Keep an eye on rookie cornerback Darnay Holmes, a speedy fourth-rounder out of UCLA.

FINAL ANALYSIS This will be an improved team, in part because it couldn't be worse than it's been the last two years (9–23). But also because there is a lot more talent on the roster, and a lot of young talent that should be ready to bloom.

Among the young players Gettleman has brought in are Jones, Barkley and Slayton on offense, and 10 of 11 starters on defense, all having shown at least some flashes of potential. If he's right about Jones, that he's truly a franchise quarterback, all he needs is decent protection in front of him to make that offense run. And on defense, nine players Gettleman has drafted the last three years should be key players this year. And then there are his acquisitions like Williams, Peppers, Martinez, Bradberry and Fackrell.

The Giants are betting everything on Judge, who was on nobody's coaching short list this past offseason. They are praying that Bill Belichick's strong recommendation was right this time, since he's been wrong about so many other former assistants. If he can coach, there's enough talent for this to be a .500 team, to hang around the fringes of the playoff chase and to have the arrow pointing up towards 2021. If he can't, then hold on, because turnover and turmoil coming the Giants' way may be unlike anything they've ever seen.

2019 RESULTS (4-12)

Sept. 8	at Dallas	L	17-35
Sept. 15	Buffalo	L	14-28
Sept. 22	at Tampa Bay	W	32-31
Sept. 29	Washington	W	24-3
Oct. 6	Minnesota	L	10-28
Oct. 10	at New England	L	14-35
Oct. 20	Arizona	L	21-27
Oct. 27	at Detroit	L	26-31
Nov. 4	Dallas	L	18-37
Nov. 10	at N.Y. Jets	L	27-34
Nov. 24	at Chicago	L	14-19
Dec. 1	Green Bay	L	13-31
Dec. 9	at Philadelphia (ot)	L	17-23
Dec. 15	Miami	W	36-20
Dec. 22	at Washington (ot)	W	41-35
Dec. 29	Philadelphia	L	17-34

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Daniel Jones	459	284	3,027	24	12
Eli Manning	147	91	1,042	6	5

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Saquon Barkley	217	1,003	4.6	6
Daniel Jones	45	279	6.2	2
Wayne Gallman	29	110	3.8	2

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Darius Slayton	48	740	15.4	8
Golden Tate	49	676	13.8	6
Sterling Shepard	57	576	10.1	3
Evan Engram	44	467	10.6	3
Saquon Barkley	52	438	8.4	2

KICKING: Aldrick Rosas, 12-17 FGs, 35-39 PAT, 71 points

TACKLES: Antoine Bethea, 110; David Mayo, 82

SACKS: Markus Golden, 10.0; two tied with 4.5

INTERCEPTIONS: Janoris Jenkins, 4; Ryan Connelly, 2

2019 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	338.5	23	14
Rushing	105.3	19	10
Passing	233.2	18	11
Scoring	21.3	T18	T12
Third Down %	37.3	19	11
Punt Returns	9.8	4	1
Kick Returns	23.5	10	5

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	377.3	25	12
Rushing	113.3	20	10
Passing	264.1	28	13
Scoring	28.2	30	15
Interceptions	10	T25	T12
Sacks	36	22	12
Turnover Differential	-17	T31	16

Barkley: Aaron M. Sprecher via AP; Jones: W.E. Smith

2020 VETERAN NEW YORK ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
8	Jones, Daniel	QB	6-5	220	1	Duke	D1a-19	D1a-NYG-19
12	McCoy, Colt	QB	6-1	212	10	Texas	FA-Was-20	D3-Cle-10
13	Rush, Cooper	QB	6-3	225	3	Central Michigan	W-Dal-20	FA-Dal-17
3	Tanney, Alex	QB	6-3	208	4	Monmouth (IL)	FA-18	FA-KC-12
RUNNING BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
45	Aston, George	FB	6-0	240	1	Pittsburgh	FA-19	FA-Den-19
26	Barkley, Saquon	RB	6-0	232	2	Penn State	D1-18	D1-NYG-18
22	Gallman, Wayne	RB	6-0	216	3	Clemson	D4-17	D4-NYG-17
28	Hilliman, Jon	RB	6-0	226	1	Rutgers	FA-19	FA-NYG-19
33	Lewis, Dion	RB	5-8	195	8	Pittsburgh	FA-Ten-20	D5-Phi-11
39	Penny, Eli	RB	6-1	250	3	Idaho	FA-18	FA-Ari-16
RECEIVERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
80	Bachman, Alex	WR	6-0	190	1	Wake Forest	FA-19	FA-LAR-19
19	Coleman, Corey	WR	5-11	185	4	Baylor	FA-18	D1-Cle-16
17	Core, Cody	WR	6-3	205	4	Ole Miss	W-Cin-19	D6-Cin-16
89	Dickerson, Garrett	TE	6-3	252	2	Northwestern	FA-19	FA-NYG-18
88	Engram, Evan	TE	6-3	240	3	Ole Miss	D1-17	D1-NYG-17
18	Scott, Da'Mari	WR	6-0	205	1	Fresno State	W-Buf-19	FA-Cle-18
87	Shepard, Sterling	WR	5-10	196	4	Oklahoma	D2-16	D2-NYG-16
84	Sills V, David	WR	6-3	211	1	West Virginia	FA-19	FA-Buf-19
83	Simonson, Scott	TE	6-5	261	6	Assumption	FA-19	FA-Oak-14
86	Slayton, Darius	WR	6-1	194	1	Auburn	D5b-19	D5b-NYG-19
82	Smith, Kaden	TE	6-5	249	1	Stanford	W-SF-19	D6-SF-19
15	Tate, Golden	WR	5-11	191	10	Notre Dame	FA-Phi-19	D2-Sea-10
85	Toilolo, Levine	TE	6-8	268	7	Stanford	FA-SF-20	D4-Atl-13
83	Tomlinson, Eric	TE	6-6	263	4	UTEP	FA-LV-20	FA-Phi-15
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
78	Asafo-Adjei, George	T	6-5	320	1	Kentucky	D7a-19	D7a-NYG-19
75	Fleming, Cameron	T	6-5	320	6	Stanford	FA-Dal-20	D4c-NE-14
65	Gates, Nick	G	6-6	318	2	Nebraska	FA-19	FA-NYG-18
75	Halapio, Jon	C	6-4	315	3	Florida	FA-16	D6-NE-14
71	Hernandez, Will	G	6-3	332	2	UTEP	D2-18	D2-NYG-18
77	Pulley, Spencer	C	6-4	309	4	Vanderbilt	W-LAC-18	FA-LAC-16
62	Slade, Chad	G	6-5	315	2	Auburn	FA-19	FA-Hou-15
79	Smith, Eric	T	6-4	308	2	Virginia	W-NYJ-19	FA-Mia-17
76	Solder, Nate	T	6-9	316	9	Colorado	FA-NE-18	D1-NE-11
73	Wozniak, Nate	T	6-10	280	1	Minnesota	FA-19	FA-NO-18
70	Zeitler, Kevin	G	6-4	330	8	Wisconsin	T-Cle-19	D1b-Cin-12
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
95	Hill, B.J.	DL	6-3	310	2	NC State	D3-18	D3-NYG-18
98	Johnson, Austin	DL	6-4	314	4	Penn State	FA-Ten-20	D2b-Ten-16
97	Lawrence, Dexter	DL	6-4	342	1	Clemson	D1b-19	D1b-NYG-19
90	McIntosh, RJ	DL	6-5	293	2	Miami	D5-18	D5-NYG-18
91	Slayton, Chris	DL	6-4	307	1	Syracuse	D7b-19	D7b-NYG-19
94	Tomlinson, Dalvin	DL	6-3	319	3	Alabama	D2-17	D2-NYG-17
99	Williams, Leonard	DL	6-5	302	5	USC	T-NYJ-19	D1-NYJ-15
LINEBACKERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
59	Carter, Lorenzo	LB	6-5	255	2	Georgia	D3-18	D3-NYG-18
57	Connelly, Ryan	LB	6-2	236	1	Wisconsin	D5a-19	D5a-NYG-19
52	Downs, Devante	LB	6-2	252	2	California	FA-19	D7-Min-18
51	Fackrell, Kyler	LB	6-5	245	4	Utah State	FA-GB-20	D3-GB-16
44	Golden, Markus	LB	6-3	259	5	Missouri	FA-Ari-19	D2-Ari-15
49	Harvey, Nate	LB	5-11	237	1	East Carolina	FA-19	FA-NYG-19
96	Martin, Kareem	LB	6-6	262	6	North Carolina	FA-18	D3-Ari-14
54	Martinez, Blake	LB	6-2	237	4	Stanford	FA-GB-20	D4a-GB-16
55	Mayo, David	LB	6-2	240	5	Texas State	FA-19	D5-Car-15
46	McLaurin, Mark	LB	6-2	214	1	Mississippi State	FA-19	FA-NYG-19
47	Ogletree, Alec	LB	6-3	250	7	Georgia	T-LAR-18	D1b-LAR-13
43	Peace, Chris	LB	6-2	238	1	Virginia	W-LAC-19	FA-LAC-19
48	Tauaefa, Josiah	LB	6-1	232	1	UTSA	FA-19	FA-NYG-19
53	Ximines, Oshane	LB	6-4	254	1	Old Dominion	D3-19	D3-NYG-19
DEFENSIVE BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
22	Askew-Henry, Dravon	S	6-0	202	1	West Virginia	FA-20	FA-Pit-19
27	Baker, DeAndre	CB	5-11	189	1	Georgia	D1c-19	D1c-NYG-19
25	Ballentine, Corey	CB	6-0	191	1	Washburn	D6-19	D6-NYG-19
23	Beal, Sam	CB	6-1	192	2	Western Michigan	SD3-18	SD3-NYG-18
24	Bradberry, James	CB	6-1	212	4	Samford	FA-Car-20	D2-Car-16
36	Chandler, Sean	S	5-11	202	2	Temple	FA-19	FA-NYG-18
43	Ebner, Nate	DB	6-0	215	8	Ohio State	FA-NE-20	D6-NE-12
38	Gaulden, Rashaan	S	6-1	200	2	Tennessee	FA-19	D3-Car-18
34	Haley, Grant	CB	5-9	191	2	Penn State	FA-18	FA-NYG-18
18	Hartage, Montre	S	6-0	190	1	Northwestern	W-Mia-20	FA-Mia-19
20	Love, Julian	CB	5-11	195	1	Notre Dame	D4-19	D4-NYG-19
21	Peppers, Jabrill	S	5-11	215	3	Michigan	T-Cle-19	D1b-Cle-17
SPECIALISTS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
9	Dixon, Riley	P	6-5	226	4	Syracuse	T-Den-18	D7-Den-16
58	Kreiter, Casey	LS	6-1	250	4	Iowa	FA-Den-20	FA-Dal-14
2	Rosas, Aldrick	K	6-3	233	3	Southern Oregon	FA-17	FA-Ten-16

Scouting the Giants

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP NEW YORK "GM Dave Gettleman hired Patriots special teams coordinator Joe Judge, who has tremendous respect amongst the football fraternity. ... QB Daniel Jones showed promising attributes last season but made his fair share of rookie mistakes, with 18 fumbles. Now comes a new offensive coordinator, ex-Dallas Cowboys head coach Jason Garrett. ... They have a generational talent in RB Saquon Barkley and signed shifty veteran Dion Lewis. ... This is a scrappy WR unit led by Golden Tate, Sterling Shepard and an unanticipated emergence from 2019 fifth-round pick Darius Slayton. ... The OL got paid big money but played below average with OT Nate Solder allowing constant pressures and OG Will Hernandez looking sluggish, so they drafted OT Andrew Thomas to pair up with reliable OG Kevin Zeitler. ... They have a talented run-stuffing DL with Dalvin Tomlinson, Dexter Lawrence and B.J. Hill, so they decided to make a mid-season trade for Leonard Williams to add pass rush. ... They released ILB Alec Ogletree after he got outplayed by rookie Ryan Connelly and veteran David Mayo, and they added ex-Packer Blake Martinez in free agency. ... CB DeAndre Baker was most effective in run support, so they signed CB James Bradberry this offseason. They drafted Xavier McKinney, an enforcing safety, but what does this mean for the future of Jabrill Peppers? ... This will be an 'old-school' football team, but can that mentality lead to a playoff appearance?"

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
CB	James Bradberry	Carolina
S	Nate Ebner	New England
LB	Kyler Fackrell	Green Bay
OT	Cam Fleming	Dallas
DT	Austin Johnson	Tennessee
RB	Dion Lewis	Tennessee
LB	Blake Martinez	Green Bay
QB	Colt McCoy	Washington
TE	Levine Toilolo	San Francisco

KEY LOSSES -

POS.	PLAYER	2020 TEAM
S	Antoine Bethea	Free Agent
TE	Rhett Ellison	Retired
LB	Markus Golden	Free Agent
CB	Antonio Hamilton	Kansas City
WR	Cody Latimer	Washington
QB	Eli Manning	Retired
LB	Kareem Martin	Free Agent
LB	Alec Ogletree	Free Agent
OT	Mike Remmers	Kansas City

Offseason Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR	15	Golden Tate	86	Darius Slayton
WR	87	Sterling Shepard	19	Corey Coleman
LT	76	Nate Solder	78	Andrew Thomas (R)
LG	71	Will Hernandez	66	Shane Lemieux (R)
C	77	Spencer Pulley	75	Jon Halapio
RG	70	Kevin Zeitler	65	Nick Gates
RT	78	Andrew Thomas (R)	75	Cameron Fleming
TE	88	Evan Engram	85	Levine Toilolo
QB	8	Daniel Jones	12	Colt McCoy
RB	26	Saquon Barkley	33	Dion Lewis
FB	39	Eli Penny		

DEFENSE

LDE	99	Leonard Williams	95	B.J. Hill
NT	94	Dalvin Tomlinson	91	Chris Slayton
RDE	97	Dexter Lawrence	98	Austin Johnson
OLB	51	Kyler Fackrell	53	Oshane Ximines
ILB	55	David Mayo	57	Ryan Connelly
ILB	54	Blake Martinez	35	TJ Brunson (R)
OLB	59	Lorenzo Carter	47	Cam Brown (R)
CB	27	DeAndre Baker	23	Sam Beal
CB	24	James Bradberry	30	Darnay Holmes (R)
FS	29	Xavier McKinney (R)	20	Julian Love
SS	21	Jabrill Peppers	36	Sean Chandler

SPECIALISTS

K	2	Aldrick Rosas	KR 25	Corey Ballentine
P	9	Riley Dixon	PR 15	Golden Tate

Tom DiPace

Giants *in the Draft* | Grade: B

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	**Andrew Thomas**	**OT**	**6-5**	**315**	**Georgia**
2.	Xavier McKinney	S	6-0	201	Alabama
3.	Matt Peart	OT	6-5	310	Connecticut
4.	Darnay Holmes	CB	5-10	195	UCLA
5.	Shane Lemieux	G	6-4	310	Oregon
6.	Cam Brown	LB	6-5	233	Penn State
7.	Carter Coughlin	LB	6-3	236	Minnesota
7.	TJ Brunson	LB	6-1	229	South Carolina
7.	Chris Williamson	CB	6-0	205	Minnesota
7.	Tae Crowder	LB	6-3	235	Georgia

The Giants finally put some focus on their offensive line but really only came up with one immediate starter — Andrew Thomas, the fourth overall pick. He'll likely play right tackle this year and move to left next year. Matt Peart and Shane Lemieux are good prospects but likely won't have a spot until 2021, unless Lemieux can switch to center — a position he's never played. But they definitely strengthened the depth of the line and give the embattled unit hope for the future. The Giants also got an impact player on defense in Xavier McKinney, who can be the deep safety next to Jabrill Peppers. Darnay Holmes will get a chance to compete with Sam Beal for the nickel cornerback job.

Outside the Huddle

YEAR-ONE WONDERS This bodes well for rookie head coach Joe Judge: Three of the last five Giants coaches won 10 or more games in their first season with the team — Ben McAdoo (11–5, 2016), Jim Fassel (10–5–1, 1997), Dan Reeves (11–5, 1993). The two who didn't were Pat Shurmur (5–11, 2018) and Tom Coughlin (6–10, 2004). Before Reeves, you have to go back to 1961 when Allie Sherman went 10–3–1 to find a Giants head coach who had such a successful first year.

GREEN WITH ENVY When the Giants played the Jets last November, Saquon Barkley's father went to the game wearing … a Jets jersey? It's true. He wore a Joe Namath throwback. Turns out his dad has a Jets tattoo on his arm, too. "He's been a Jets fan all his life," Saquon Barkley says. "So he gets the best of both worlds watching his team that he grew up rooting for and he gets to watch his son live his dream." Saquon Barkley, by the way, grew up a Jets fan, too. The Jets won the game, 34–27.

THEY CALL HIM FLIPPER After Daniel Jones threw five touchdowns in an overtime win in Washington, the Giants celebrated at a bar in Hoboken, N.J., where Eli Manning and Jones were caught on camera playing an awkward game of "flip cup." But it appeared Manning was cheating. "If you ain't cheating, you ain't trying," Barkley said. "He's going to find a way to win at everything." One week later, though, Jones took the "win" by celebrating a touchdown pass to Golden Tate by gathering teammates for a celebration that mimicked an awkward game of flip cup.

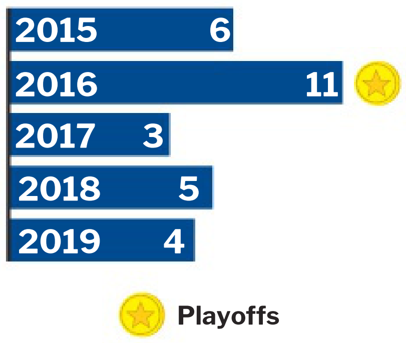
EXPERIENCE NECESSARY When the Giants decided to hire a 38-year-old rookie head coach, they suggested to him that he hire an experienced staff. And boy, did he ever. Joe Judge hired four former head coaches, including former Cowboys coach Jason Garrett as his offensive coordinator, former Browns coach Freddie Kitchens as his tight ends coach, former Tennessee Vols coach Derek Dooley as a senior offensive assistant and former Wisconsin and Arkansas coach Bret Bielema as his outside linebackers coach.

ICE CAPADES New Giants guard Shane Lemieux has a famous last name, but not for a football player. And he says he's not related to any of the hockey players named Lemieux, like Mario or Claude. But … "I had a left tackle in college (at Oregon) named Tyrell Crosby. So it was Crosby and Lemieux. People had a fit with that." Crosby is a third-year offensive lineman with the Lions.

BANKS CLOSED For a franchise that used to be known for dominant linebackers, it's a maddening drought. The Giants haven't taken a linebacker in the first round of the draft since they took Carl Banks third overall in 1984. That's 36 straight drafts. And in that time, they've taken a linebacker in the second round only three times.

EMPTY SACK When Markus Golden got his 10th sack last season, he became the first Giant with double-digit sacks since Jason Pierre-Paul had 12.5 in 2014. JPP, Golden and Justin Tuck are the only Giants to hit double-digit sacks in the last nine seasons. JPP had 16.5 in 2011 and Tuck had 11.0 in 2013.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



NUMBERS TO KNOW

18.1

Giants special teams held opponents to an NFL-low 18.1 yards per kickoff return.

8.8

The Giants lost fumbles on a league-high 8.8 percent of their offensive drives.

8.9

New York forced a turnover on just 8.9% of its defensive drives, tied for the lowest rate in the NFL with the Broncos and Raiders.

Philadelphia
EAGLES

NFC East Forecast: 2

THE ORGANIZATION

Chairman/CEO: Jeffrey Lurie
President: Don Smolenski
Executive VP/General Manager: Howie Roseman
VP of Player Personnel: Andy Weidl
Stadium: Lincoln Financial Field (69,176)
Surface: Grass
Website: www.philadelphiaeagles.com
Tickets: 215-463-5500
Training Camp: NovaCare Complex (Philadelphia, Pa.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Doug Pederson
Record With Team: 38–26
Career Record: 38-26
Defensive Coordinator: Jim Schwartz
Special Teams Coordinator: Dave Fipp
Passing Game Coordinator/Quarterbacks: Press Taylor
Assistant Head Coach/Running Backs: Duce Staley
Wide Receivers: Aaron Moorehead
Tight Ends: Justin Peelle
Offensive Line/Run Game Coordinator: Jeff Stoutland
Run Game Coordinator/Defensive Line: Matt Burke
Linebackers: Ken Flajole
Defensive Backs: Marquand Manuel
Safeties: Tim Hauck

When the Eagles trudged off their home turf after a 17–9 Wild Card Weekend loss to Seattle, it was clear some things had to change. First, QB Carson Wentz, who played less than one quarter in the defeat due to a questionable hit by Seahawks defensive end Jadeveon Clowney, needed to be capable of seeing an entire season to its (hopeful) postseason conclusion.

Perhaps even more important was that the Birds needed to be faster. Last season's deliberate, often tortoise-like attack that needed at least eight plays on 55.8 percent of its touchdown drives had to be upgraded with a significant dose of rocket fuel. The defense had to gain speed, too, in order to keep up with the league's blistering offensive attacks.

GM Howie Roseman tried to do both in a draft that included three new wideouts and some defenders with stopwatch-friendly 40-yard dash times. He traded for oft-injured but blur-like wideout Marquise Goodwin. Even second-round pick Jalen Hurts, the quarterback from Oklahoma, runs well. New corner Darius Slay has jets, as does free agent linebacker signee Jatavis Brown. Kansas City won a Super Bowl with a team loaded with sprinters, and the Eagles seem to be imitating that approach.

OFFENSE After missing parts of the previous two regular seasons, Wentz went the full 16-game route in 2019 and posted strong numbers (team-record 4,039 yards, 27 TDs, seven interceptions, 63.9 percent completion rate), and his concussion suffered against Seattle was a huge factor in the loss. Perhaps most impressive was that he became the first QB to throw for 4,000 yards without a single wideout who amassed 500 receiving yards. Wentz has a big arm, good mobility and a great understanding of head coach Doug Pederson's offense. He should again prosper and could be even better, provided his supporting cast is productive and healthy enough.

The Hurts selection shocked many. He's an interesting weapon, but the Eagles have a franchise QB. Hurts will likely be used in RPO packages and as a talented insurance policy. Nate Sudfeld is the other backup.

The wideout group has promise but questions. Oft-injured speedster DeSean Jackson played in only three games last year due to a core muscle injury. Expensive ($33.9 million over next two years) Alshon Jeffery missed six games last year and wasn't too productive when he did play (43 catches, four TDs). Last year's second-round pick, J.J. Arcega-Whiteside, caught 10 passes and looked overmatched, while late-season standout Greg Ward doesn't have enough of a résumé to show he's a reliable slot man. Into that mix comes top draft pick Jalen Reagor, whose relatively unimpressive numbers in 2019 at TCU were a product of inconsistent QB play. He has breakaway speed and will work well on screens and jet sweeps, but he needs to develop as an underneath target. Goodwin is a blazer, but he played only 20 total games the past two seasons. Fifth-round pick John Hightower can get deep, too.

The tight end spot is in great shape, thanks to Zach Ertz, one of the league's best, and Dallas Goedert, who caught 58 passes and scored five times last year.

The Eagles thought enough of Miles Sanders' rookie season (818 yards, three TDs, 4.6-yard average) to get rid of sturdy Jordan Howard. Sanders has plenty of potential, but he is not made for repeated work inside the tackles. Boston Scott is a solid third option, but his ceiling is not high.

The Eagles allowed sure-fire Hall of Famer Jason Peters to become a free agent, giving the left tackle spot to Andre Dillard,

2020 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time	2019 Record	2019 NFL RANKINGS			
				Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 13	at Washington	1:00	3-13	274.7 (31)	385.1 (27)	16.6 (32)	27.2 (27)
Sept. 20	L.A. Rams	1:00	9-7	374.9 (7)	339.6 (13)	24.6 (11)	22.8 (17)
Sept. 27	Cincinnati	1:00	2-14	323.1 (26)	393.7 (29)	17.4 (30)	26.2 (25)
Oct. 4	at San Francisco	8:20	13-3	381.1 (4)	281.8 (2)	29.9 (2)	19.4 (8)
Oct. 11	at Pittsburgh	1:00	8-8	276.8 (30)	304.1 (5)	18.1 (27)	18.9 (t5)
Oct. 18	Baltimore	1:00	14-2	407.6 (2)	300.6 (4)	33.2 (1)	17.6 (3)
Oct. 22	N.Y. Giants (Thu.)	8:20	4-12	338.5 (23)	377.3 (25)	21.3 (t18)	28.2 (30)
Nov. 1	Dallas	8:20	8-8	431.5 (1)	327.0 (9)	27.1 (6)	20.1 (11)
BYE							
Nov. 15	at N.Y. Giants	1:00	4-12	338.5 (23)	377.3 (25)	21.3 (t18)	28.2 (30)
Nov. 22	at Cleveland	1:00	6-10	340.9 (22)	361.6 (22)	20.9 (22)	24.6 (20)
Nov. 30	Seattle (Mon.)	8:15	11-5	374.4 (8)	381.6 (26)	25.3 (9)	24.9 (22)
Dec. 6	at Green Bay	4:25	13-3	345.5 (18)	352.6 (18)	23.5 (15)	19.6 (9)
Dec. 13	New Orleans	4:25	13-3	373.9 (9)	333.1 (11)	28.6 (t3)	21.3 (13)
Dec. 20	at Arizona	4:05	5-10-1	341.7 (21)	402.0 (32)	22.6 (t16)	27.6 (28)
Dec. 27	at Dallas	4:25	8-8	431.5 (1)	327.0 (9)	27.1 (6)	20.1 (11)
Jan. 3	Washington	1:00	3-13	274.7 (31)	385.1 (27)	16.6 (32)	27.2 (27)

AP Photo/Matt Rourke

Zach Ertz

TIGHT END

2019 RESULTS (9-7)

Sept. 8	Washington	W	32-27
Sept. 15	at Atlanta	L	20-24
Sept. 22	Detroit	L	24-27
Sept. 26	at Green Bay	W	34-27
Oct. 6	N.Y. Jets	W	31-6
Oct. 13	at Minnesota	L	20-38
Oct. 20	at Dallas	L	10-37
Oct. 27	at Buffalo	W	31-13
Nov. 3	Chicago	W	22-14
Nov. 17	New England	L	10-17
Nov. 24	Seattle	L	9-17
Dec. 1	at Miami	L	31-37
Dec. 9	N.Y. Giants (ot)	W	23-17
Dec. 15	at Washington	W	37-27
Dec. 22	Dallas	W	17-9
Dec. 29	at N.Y. Giants	W	34-17
Postseason			
Jan. 5	Seattle	L	9-17

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Carson Wentz	607	388	4,039	27	7

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Miles Sanders	179	818	4.6	3
Jordan Howard	119	525	4.4	6
Boston Scott	61	245	4.0	5
Carson Wentz	62	243	3.9	1

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Zach Ertz	88	916	10.4	6
Dallas Goedert	58	607	10.5	5
Miles Sanders	50	509	10.2	3
Alshon Jeffery	43	490	11.4	4
Nelson Agholor	39	363	9.3	3

KICKING: Jake Elliott, 22-26 FGs, 35-37 PAT, 101 points

TACKLES: Malcolm Jenkins, 81; Nate Gerry, 78

SACKS: Brandon Graham, 8.5; Derek Barnett, 6.5

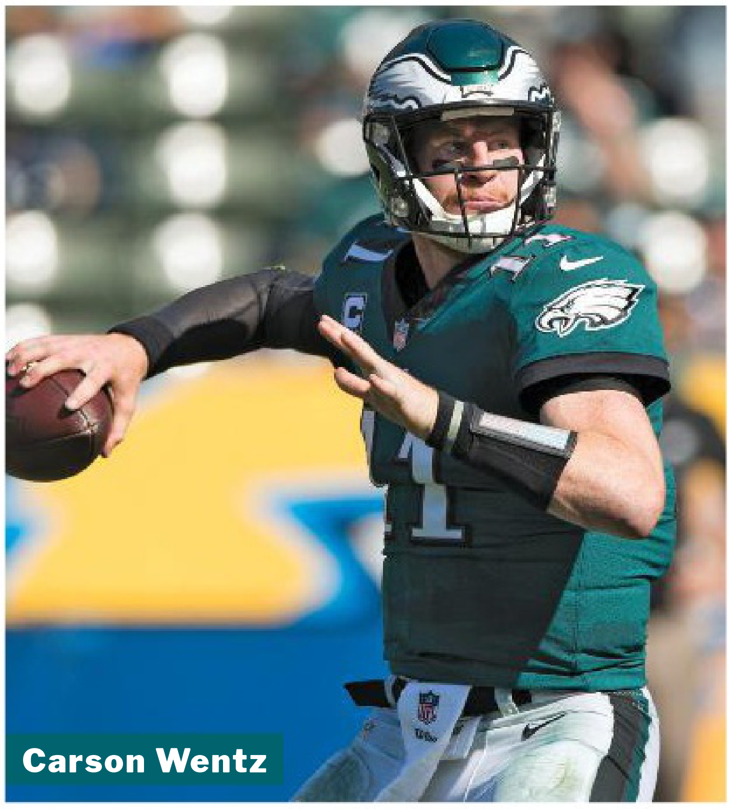
INTERCEPTIONS: Four tied with 2

2019 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	360.8	14	8
Rushing	121.2	11	6
Passing	239.6	11	7
Scoring	24.1	12	8
Third Down %	44.6	4	2
Punt Returns	5.9	25	12
Kick Returns	22.5	14	7

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	331.7	10	4
Rushing	90.1	3	2
Passing	241.6	19	9
Scoring	22.1	15	7
Interceptions	11	T22	11
Sacks	43	T13	8
Turnover Differential	-3	22	11

last year's first-round pick. Dillard showed himself to be solid in pass protection in limited action last season, but he isn't a masher on the run. He steps into a line that brings back outstanding center Jason Kelce and sturdy right tackle Lane Johnson. Guards Brandon Brooks and Isaac Seumalo provide good interior push, but depth is a concern.


Carson Wentz

Peter Brouillet

DEFENSE Coordinator Jim Schwartz's unit relies heavily on a strong pass rush to protect its defensive backs. But last year, the Birds finished in the bottom half of the NFL in passing yards allowed and interceptions. So Roseman set about trying to improve Philadelphia's pass rush and secondary.

There is no upgrade necessary for all-world tackle Fletcher Cox, who has earned five straight Pro Bowl invitations. Cox is impenetrable against the run and provides great push as a pass rusher. The Eagles hope Malik Jackson will play more than one game in 2020 (Lisfranc injury) and be a solid interior force. Free agent pickup Javon Hargrave proved with the Steelers that he could play inside against the run and also collapse the pocket on passing downs. Hassan Ridgeway provides depth.

The Eagles welcome back stalwart end Brandon Graham after a season in which he registered 8.5 sacks and 17 quarterback hits. Fourth-year end Derek Barnett has shown flashes, but he must be more productive. Josh Sweat has good speed and flashed promise last year but isn't a full-time option.

The Eagles secondary was vulnerable last year. The 2020 version boasts a pair of new corners and a position switch. Strong safety Rodney McLeod returns after finishing third on the team in tackles and brings a hammer against the run. When free safety Malcolm Jenkins made it clear he wouldn't play for $7.6 million in 2020, the Eagles released him. His departure means a loss of leadership and sturdy production, although his pass defense skills had atrophied. Jalen Mills, who has played corner for four seasons but has been injury prone the last two, will get the first shot at Jenkins' job, but there is no proven depth behind him. Rookie K'Von Wallace played well against the run at Clemson.

The Eagles upgraded at corner by trading with Detroit for Slay, who made the Pro Bowl each of the last three seasons. He has strong ball skills. Philadelphia signed solid slot corner Nickell Robey-Coleman to a one-year deal and expects Avonte Maddox to start at the other corner. Sidney Jones, who has disappointed during his tenure with the team, Rasul Douglas and Cre'Von LeBlanc will provide depth.

At linebacker, Nathan Gerry is productive on the outside, but neither middle man T.J. Edwards nor Duke Riley would start on most playoff-caliber teams. Former Charger Jatavis Brown, a speedy outside man who was on the field for just 92 snaps in 2019, could start. Third-round pick Davion Taylor is another swift outside linebacker.

SPECIALISTS The Birds are in pretty good shape here. Kicker Jake Elliott has a sturdy leg and is automatic from inside 40 yards. However, over the past two seasons, he has been somewhat unreliable on longer kicks. Cameron Johnston's punting numbers dropped some in 2019 after a robust rookie debut, but his 46.4-yard average is still quite good.

Scott and Sanders are solid kick returners, and Sanders has the speed to break one. Expect Reagor and Hightower to get shots at returns; both have big-play ability.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Eagles remain serious contenders in the NFC East, in part because of their relative roster stability as well as the coaching upheaval in the division. Wentz is a top-tier QB, and having Sanders, Ertz and Goedert with him, along with a sturdy offensive line, will help a lot. But Reagor needs to produce right away, and the Birds need full seasons (or close to it) from Jackson and Jeffery. Dillard must be solid, particularly in pass protection, to protect his injury-prone QB. The defense addressed two big needs by adding help along the defensive front and in the secondary, but other than Cox, Hargrave, Graham, McLeod and Slay, there remain questions. Philadelphia is a good team, but remember that it needed to win its final four games to reach the playoffs. Expect playoff contention, but a lot must go right for postseason success.

Scouting the Eagles

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP PHILADELPHIA "This roster was supposed to compete for a Super Bowl but instead turned into a 9–7 team that barely squeaked into the playoffs. Injuries to the WR corps caused a lack of rhythm between head coach/play-caller Doug Pederson and QB Carson Wentz. As a contingency plan, they drafted playmaking QB Jalen Hurts. ... RBs Miles Sanders and Boston Scott were productive playmakers, and with the departure of Jordan Howard, expect them to have bigger roles this season. ... As injuries derailed the WR room, the best TE duo — reliable Zach Ertz and emerging star Dallas Goedert — picked up the slack, combining for 1,523 yards and 11 TDs. ... This is a top-three OL unit with solid depth. Losing a leader in LT Jason Peters is never easy, but expect second-year OT Andre Dillard to develop more strength and fill that void. ... Defensively, their strength is the DL with stud DT Fletcher Cox, DEs Brandon Graham and Derek Barnett, and with the addition of DT Javon Hargrave, this could be the most dominant front four in the NFL. ... They've had issues finding a No. 1 CB and finally made an offseason trade for Pro Bowl CB Darius Slay to pair with quality role players. ... The Eagles will be flying high after a fantastic offseason by GM Howie Roseman — as long as the injury bug doesn't bite them again."

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS ⊕

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
LB	Jatavis Brown	L.A. Chargers
WR	Marquise Goodwin	San Francisco
DT	Javon Hargrave	Pittsburgh
S	Will Parks	Denver
CB	Nickell Robey-Coleman	L.A. Rams
CB	Darius Slay	Detroit

KEY LOSSES ⊖

POS.	PLAYER	2020 TEAM
WR	Nelson Agholor	Las Vegas
LB	Nigel Bradham	Free Agent
DE	Vinny Curry	Free Agent
CB	Ronald Darby	Washington
LB	Kamu Grugier-Hill	Miami
WR	Mack Hollins	Miami
RB	Jordan Howard	Miami
DT	Timmy Jernigan	Houston
S	Malcolm Jenkins	New Orleans
T	Jason Peters	Free Agent
S	Andrew Sendejo	Cleveland
T	Halapoulivaati Vaitai	Detroit

Offseason Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR	17	Alshon Jeffery	19	J.J. Arcega-Whiteside
WR	10	DeSean Jackson	84	Greg Ward
WR	18	Jalen Reagor (R)	13	Marquise Goodwin
LT	77	Andre Dillard	68	Jordan Mailata
LG	73	Isaac Seumalo	78	Sua Opeta
C	62	Jason Kelce	67	Nate Herbig
RG	79	Brandon Brooks	63	Jack Driscoll (R)
RT	65	Lane Johnson	69	Matt Pryor
TE	86	Zach Ertz	88	Dallas Goedert
QB	11	Carson Wentz	7	Nate Sudfeld
RB	26	Miles Sanders	35	Boston Scott

DEFENSE

DE	55	Brandon Graham	51	Shareef Miller
DT	91	Fletcher Cox	98	Hassan Ridgeway
DT	93	Javon Hargrave	97	Malik Jackson
DE	96	Derek Barnett	94	Josh Sweat
OLB	47	Nathan Gerry	53	Jatavis Brown
MLB	57	T.J. Edwards	49	Alex Singleton
OLB	50	Duke Riley	52	Davion Taylor (R)
CB	24	Darius Slay	32	Rasul Douglas
CB	29	Avonte Maddox	31	Nickell Robey-Coleman
SS	23	Rodney McLeod	36	Rudy Ford
FS	21	Jalen Mills	28	Will Parks

SPECIALISTS

K	4	Jake Elliott	KR	26	Miles Sanders
P	1	Cameron Johnston	PR	35	Boston Scott

2020 VETERAN EAGLES ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
8	Lauletta, Kyle	QB	6-2	219	2	Richmond	FA-19	D4-NYG-18
7	Sudfeld, Nate	QB	6-6	227	4	Indiana	FA-17	D6-Was-16
11	Wentz, Carson	QB	6-5	237	4	North Dakota St.	D1-16	D1-Phi-16

RUNNING BACKS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
30	Clement, Corey	RB	5-10	220	3	Wisconsin	FA-17	FA-Phi-17
33	Holyfield, Elijah	RB	5-10	215	1	Georgia	PS-Car-19	FA-Car-19
26	Sanders, Miles	RB	5-11	211	1	Penn State	D2a-19	D2a-Phi-19
35	Scott, Boston	RB	5-6	203	1	Louisiana Tech	PS-NO-18	D6-NO-18

RECEIVERS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
19	Arcega-Whiteside, J.J.	WR	6-2	225	1	Stanford	D2b-19	D2b-Phi-19
16	Burnett, Deontay	WR	6-0	186	2	USC	FA-19	Fa-Ten-18
14	Davis, Robert	WR	6-3	210	2	Georgia State	FA-19	D6-Was-17
85	Ellis, Alex	TE	6-4	245	3	Tennessee	FA-KC-19	FA-Ten-16
86	Ertz, Zach	TE	6-5	250	7	Stanford	D2-13	D2-Phi-13
83	Gibson, Shelton	WR	5-11	191	2	West Virginia	FA-20	D5-Phi-17
88	Goedert, Dallas	TE	6-5	256	2	South Dakota St.	D2-18	D2-Phi-18
13	Goodwin, Marquise	WR	5-9	185	7	Texas	T-SF-20	D3-Buf-13
89	Green, Marcus	WR	5-8	191	1	UL Monroe	FA-19	D6-Atl-19
10	Jackson, DeSean	WR	5-10	175	12	California	T-TB-19	D2-Phi-08
17	Jeffery, Alshon	WR	6-3	218	8	South Carolina	FA-Chi-17	D2-Chi-12
81	Perkins, Joshua	TE	6-3	223	3	Washington	FA-18	FA-Atl-16
84	Ward, Greg	WR	5-11	190	1	Houston	FA-19	FA-Phi-17

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
79	Brooks, Brandon	G	6-5	335	8	Miami (OH)	FA-Hou-16	D3-Hou-12
77	Dillard, Andre	T	6-5	315	1	Washington State	D1-19	D1-Phi-19
67	Herbig, Nate	C/G	6-4	334	1	Stanford	FA-19	FA-Phi-19
65	Johnson, Lane	T	6-6	317	7	Oklahoma	D1-13	D1-Phi-13
62	Kelce, Jason	C	6-3	295	9	Cincinnati	D6a-11	D6a-Phi-11
68	Mailata, Jordan	T	6-8	346	2	None	D7-18	D7-Phi-18
78	Opeta, Sua	G	6-4	305	1	Weber State	FA-19	FA-Phi-19
69	Pryor, Matt	G/T	6-7	332	2	TCU	D6-18	D6-Phi-18
64	Render, Keegan	C	6-4	307	1	Iowa	FA-19	FA-Phi-19
73	Seumalo, Isaac	OL	6-4	303	4	Oregon State	D3-16	D3-Phi-16
76	Tucker, Casey	T	6-6	315	1	Arizona State	W-Det-20	FA-Phi-19

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
58	Avery, Genard	DE	6-0	250	2	Memphis	T-Cle-19	D5-Cle-18
96	Barnett, Derek	DE	6-3	259	3	Tennessee	D1-17	D1-Phi-17
91	Cox, Fletcher	DT	6-4	310	8	Mississippi State	D1-12	D1-Phi-12
55	Graham, Brandon	DE	6-2	265	10	Michigan	D1-10	D1-Phi-10
74	Hall, Daeshon	DE	6-5	265	3	Texas A&M	PS-Hou-18	D3-Car-17
93	Hargrave, Javon	DT	6-2	305	4	South Carolina St.	FA-Pit-20	D3-Pit-16
90	Hector, Bruce	DT	6-2	296	2	South Florida	FA-19	FA-Phi-18
76	Huggins, Albert	DT	6-3	305	1	Clemson	FA-19	FA-Hou-19
97	Jackson, Malik	DT	6-5	290	8	Tennessee	FA-Jac-19	D5-Den-12
51	Miller, Shareef	DE	6-4	254	1	Penn State	D4-19	D4-Phi-19
95	Ostman, Joe	DE	6-3	259	1	Central Michigan	FA-18	FA-Phi-18
98	Ridgeway, Hassan	DT	6-3	305	4	Texas	T-Ind-19	D4-Ind-16
66	Rush, Anthony	DT	6-5	350	1	UAB	PS-LV-19	FA-Phi-19
94	Sweat, Josh	DE	6-5	251	2	Florida State	D4b-18	D4b-Phi-18

LINEBACKERS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
53	Brown, Jatavis	LB	5-11	221	4	Akron	FA-LAC-20	D5-LAC-16
57	Edwards, T.J.	LB	6-1	242	1	Wisconsin	FA-19	FA-Phi-19
47	Gerry, Nathan	LB	6-2	230	3	Nebraska	D5b-17	D5b-Phi-17
50	Riley, Duke	LB	6-1	218	3	LSU	T-Atl-19	D3-Atl-17
49	Singleton, Alex	LB	6-2	240	1	Montana State	FA-19	FA-Sea-15

DEFENSIVE BACKS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
32	Douglas, Rasul	CB	6-2	209	3	West Virginia	D3-17	D3-Phi-17
37	Epps, Marcus	S	6-0	191	1	Wyoming	W-Min-19	D6-Min-19
36	Ford, Rudy	S	6-0	204	3	Auburn	T-Ari-19	D6-Ari-17
39	James, Craig	CB	5-10	195	1	Southern Illinois	FA-19	FA-Min-18
22	Jones, Sidney	CB	6-0	181	3	Washington	D2-17	D2-Phi-17
34	LeBlanc, Cre'Von	CB	5-10	190	4	Florida Atlantic	W-Det-18	FA-NE-16
29	Maddox, Avonte	CB	5-9	184	2	Pittsburgh	D4a-18	D4a-Phi-18
23	McLeod, Rodney	S	5-10	195	8	Virginia	FA-LAR-16	FA-LAR-12
21	Mills, Jalen	S/CB	6-0	191	4	LSU	D7a-16	D7a-Phi-16
28	Parks, Will	S	6-1	194	4	Arizona	FA-Den-20	D6b-Den-16
31	Robey-Coleman, Nickell	CB	5-8	180	7	USC	FA-LAR-20	FA-Buf-13
24	Slay, Darius	CB	6-0	190	7	Mississippi State	T-Det-20	D2-Det-13
38	Smith, Tremon	CB	6-0	190	2	Central Arkansas	FA-19	D6-KC-18
41	Williams, Trevor	CB	5-11	191	4	Penn State	FA-20	FA-LAC-16

SPECIALISTS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
4	Elliott, Jake	K	5-9	167	3	Memphis	PS-Cin-17	D5-Cin-17
1	Johnston, Cameron	P	5-11	194	2	Ohio State	FA-18	FA-Phi-17
45	Lovato, Rick	LS	6-2	249	3	Old Dominion	FA-16	FA-Chi-15

Eagles *in the Draft* | Grade: B-

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Jalen Reagor	TCU	5-11	197	TCU
2.	**Jalen Hurts**	**QB**	**6-1**	**223**	**Oklahoma**
3.	Davion Taylor	OLB	6-1	225	Colorado
4.	K'Von Wallace	S/CB	5-11	205	Clemson
4.	Jack Driscoll	G/T	6-5	312	Auburn
5.	John Hightower	WR	6-2	190	Boise State
6.	Shaun Bradley	LB	6-1	240	Temple
6.	Quez Watkins	WR	6-0	193	Southern Miss
6.	Prince Tega Wanogho	OT	6-5	309	Auburn
7.	Casey Toohill	DE	6-5	254	Stanford

Jalen Reagor was a curious choice, especially with LSU's Justin Jefferson still available, but the Eagles like Reagor's speed and versatility, especially on returns. They will likely use Jalen Hurts this season in RPO situations. But a team devoting a second-round pick to a quarterback when it has a starter under a large contract for several more years, and with other greater needs, was odd. Davion Taylor will help on special teams and get the chance to play against the run, but his coverage skills are raw. Expect K'Von Wallace to blitz some and play against the run, while Shaun Bradley looks like a special teamer. John Hightower and Quez Watkins are speedsters who will get the chance to get deep and handle returns. Jack Driscoll and Prince Tega Wanogho are developmental O-line projects.

Outside the Huddle

STRANGE BUT TRUE Head coach Doug Pederson had an odd two days in early January, when he told reporters during a press conference that offensive coordinator Mike Groh and wide receivers coach Carson Walch would be retained for the 2020 season before releasing a statement the next day announcing they would be fired. Since Groh didn't call plays, his departure doesn't leave a gaping hole, but it was a strange scenario for the head coach.

THREE-PRONGED ATTACK After the Eagles lost their playoff game to the Seahawks, GM Howie Roseman told Pederson he was looking for three things in the team's draft choices: speed, good health and love of the game. Pederson said he was thinking the same thing, and that was the framework of a draft that included three speedy wideouts — plus a trade for blazer Marquise Goodwin — and defenders who can run well.

FAREWELL TO A LEGEND In 2009, when the Eagles traded three draft picks to Buffalo for Pro Bowl left tackle Jason Peters and subsequently signed him to a six-year contract, they knew they had solidified that position for a long time. But they couldn't have expected 11 years of service from a man who already had played five seasons. The Birds let Peters go after the 2019 season, even though Peters still wanted to play, and gave his job to second-year pro Andre Dillard.

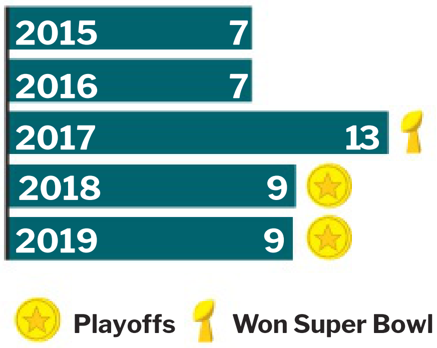
LEADERSHIP VOID It's entirely possible Malcolm Jenkins won't approach his glory-days performance during his second stint in New Orleans, but the Saints picked up a bona fide leader when they signed him following the Eagles' decision to let him go. Jenkins was a great blitzer last year in Philadelphia and played the run well, but his coverage skills abandoned him somewhat. Still, his role as a team elder was unquestioned and extremely important.

FASHIONABLY LATE With several teams announcing uniform changes, chatter increased around the chances Philadelphia could go back to its kelly green days, even as an alternate costume, for 2021. The problem stems from the league's "one helmet rule" that mandates teams can't wear a variety of helmets during a season, the better to promote player safety. If that rule is relaxed, expect to see the Birds in some form of throwback with the old color scheme in '21.

ALL-DECADE In early April, four Eagles were named to the NFL's All-Decade Team for the 2010s. Defensive tackle Fletcher Cox, running back LeSean McCoy, offensive tackle Jason Peters and all-purpose back Darren Sproles received the honor. Sproles was named twice, as a flex player on offense and a return man. It's the largest number of Birds on an All-Decade Team since the 1940s squad contained eight Philadelphia players (and there were only 10 teams).

HELPING HANDS In March, as the stay-at-home order took hold, tight end Zach Ertz and his wife, U.S. Women's National Soccer Team star Julie, donated $100,000 through the Ertz Family Foundation to Philabundance to help feed the city's hungry. Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie donated $1 million to Penn Medicine to help fight the coronavirus pandemic.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



NUMBERS TO KNOW

9.6

The Eagles allowed an average target distance of 9.6 yards, third highest in the NFL.

5.56

The Eagles led the NFL in points per red zone possession at 5.56.

4

Philadelphia converted 45.4 percent of its third-down attempts, fourth highest in the NFL. Philadelphia's defense allowed offenses to convert just 34.1 percent of their third-down attempts, fourth lowest.

Peter Brouillet

Washington REDSKINS

NFC East Forecast: 4

THE ORGANIZATION

Owner: Dan Snyder
Senior VP of Player Development: Doug Williams
VP of Player Personnel: Kyle Smith
Director of Pro Personnel: Alex Santos
Stadium: FedExField (82,000)
Surface: Grass
Website: www.redskins.com
Tickets: 301-276-6800
Training Camp: Bon Secours Washington Redskins Training Center (Richmond, Va.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Ron Rivera
Record With Team: 0-0
Career Record: 76-63-1
Offensive Coordinator: Scott Turner
Defensive Coordinator: Jack Del Rio
Special Teams Coordinator: Nate Kaczor
Quarterbacks: Kevin Zampese
Running Backs: Randy Jordan
Wide Receivers: Jim Hostler
Tight Ends: Pete Hoener
Offensive Line: John Matsko
Defensive Line: Sam Mills III
Linebackers: Steve Russ
Defensive Backs: Chris Harris

Welcome to the new Redskins. There's a new head coach (Ron Rivera), new coordinators (Jack Del Rio on defense, Scott Turner on offense), a new defensive scheme (4-3), a new player personnel chief (Kyle Smith), a new organizational model (with Rivera holding full power over personnel matters) and a new culture (basically, anything but the old one).

The Redskins certainly have nowhere to go but up following 2019's 3–13 disaster, which featured nine double-digit losses. Rivera's putting-the-band-back-together act — this is largely the same brain trust that produced four playoff appearances from 2013-17 in Carolina — extended to his vision for the roster in Year One. After a restrained free agent signing period that emphasized versatility and defensive strength, the team used the No. 2 overall pick in the draft to take Chase Young, whom the Panthers — er, Redskins — think could be Julius Peppers reincarnated.

But while the defense could be an emerging beast, Washington's offense is full of question marks, the biggest of which is whether Dwayne Haskins Jr. is still the quarterback of the future. Not even the Redskins seem to know for sure.

OFFENSE The offseason saw rampant speculation over the Redskins' quarterback situation, running all the way to the doorstep of the draft, when the team was said to be considering Tua Tagovailoa with the second overall pick. In the end, though, the Redskins made just one move here, trading a fifth-round pick to the Panthers to get Kyle Allen, a third-year pro (and 2019 starter in place of an injured Cam Newton) who will give Haskins some training camp competition and who has the advantage of familiarity with the system Turner is importing from Carolina. As for Haskins, this reality amounts to neither a vote of confidence nor a vote of non-confidence; the Redskins didn't acquire his replacement, but they did bring in a credible Plan B.

Haskins' play in 2020 will determine his future with the franchise. The Redskins have reason to be optimistic: Haskins didn't become the starter until Week 9 of 2019, and he seemed to get better every week — passing for 564 yards and five TDs with only one interception over his final 10 quarters. But his overall body of work is limited. If things go south, the Redskins may maneuver for one of the marquee QBs (Trevor Lawrence, Justin Fields) in next year's draft.

But the other massive question confronting Haskins (or Allen) is whether the team has amassed enough weapons around him for him to succeed. Wide receiver Terry McLaurin, a third-round pick last year, turned into one of the steals of the 2019 draft, pulling in 58 receptions and establishing himself as a franchise cornerstone as a rookie. But the Redskins were still light on complementary pieces at the other wide receiver spots — where the candidates include Kelvin Harmon, Trey Quinn, Cody Latimer, Steven Sims Jr. and 2020 fourth-round pick Antonio Gandy-Golden — and at tight end (Logan Thomas, Jeremy Sprinkle, Richard Rodgers).

There is excellent depth at running back, but with questions aplenty regarding age (35-year-old natural wonder Adrian Peterson) and health (Derrius Guice and Bryce Love, both of whom are coming off knee surgeries). One obvious hope is that free agent pickup J.D. McKissic replaces Chris Thompson as the third-down back, although third-round draftee Antonio Gibson — a running back/receiver hybrid — is another intriguing option there.

2020 SCHEDULE

2019 NFL RANKINGS

Date	Opponent	Time	2019 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 13	Philadelphia	1:00	9-7	360.8 (14)	331.7 (10)	24.1 (12)	22.1 (15)
Sept. 20	at Arizona	4:05	5-10-1	341.7 (21)	402.0 (32)	22.6 (t16)	27.6 (28)
Sept. 27	at Cleveland	1:00	6-10	340.9 (22)	361.6 (22)	20.9 (22)	24.6 (20)
Oct. 4	Baltimore	1:00	14-2	407.6 (2)	300.6 (4)	33.2 (1)	17.6 (3)
Oct. 11	L.A. Rams	1:00	9-7	374.9 (7)	339.6 (13)	24.6 (11)	22.8 (17)
Oct. 18	at N.Y. Giants	1:00	4-12	338.5 (23)	377.3 (25)	21.3 (t18)	28.2 (30)
Oct. 25	Dallas	1:00	8-8	431.5 (1)	327.0 (9)	27.1 (6)	20.1 (11)
BYE							
Nov. 8	N.Y. Giants	1:00	4-12	338.5 (23)	377.3 (25)	21.3 (t18)	28.2 (30)
Nov. 15	at Detroit	1:00	3-12-1	346.8 (17)	400.4 (31)	21.3 (t18)	26.4 (26)
Nov. 22	Cincinnati	1:00	2-14	323.1 (26)	393.7 (29)	17.4 (30)	26.2 (25)
Nov. 26	at Dallas (Thu.)	4:30	8-8	431.5 (1)	327.0 (9)	27.1 (6)	20.1 (11)
Dec. 6	at Pittsburgh	1:00	8-8	276.8 (30)	304.1 (5)	18.1 (27)	18.9 (t5)
Dec. 13	at San Francisco	4:25	13-3	381.1 (4)	281.8 (2)	29.9 (2)	19.4 (8)
Dec. 20	Seattle	1:00	11-5	374.4 (8)	381.6 (26)	25.3 (9)	24.9 (22)
Dec. 27	Carolina	1:00	5-11	341.8 (19)	374.5 (23)	21.2 (20)	29.4 (31)
Jan. 3	at Philadelphia	1:00	9-7	360.8 (14)	331.7 (10)	24.1 (12)	22.1 (15)

Dwayne Haskins Jr.

QUARTERBACK

2019 RESULTS (3-13)

Sept.	8	at Philadelphia	L	27-32
Sept.	15	Dallas	L	21-31
Sept.	23	Chicago	L	15-31
Sept.	29	at N.Y. Giants	L	3-24
Oct.	6	New England	L	7-33
Oct.	13	at Miami	W	17-16
Oct.	20	San Francisco	L	0-9
Oct.	24	at Minnesota	L	9-19
Nov.	3	at Buffalo	L	9-24
Nov.	17	N.Y. Jets	L	17-34
Nov.	24	Detroit	W	19-16
Dec.	1	at Carolina	W	29-21
Dec.	8	at Green Bay	L	15-20
Dec.	15	Philadelphia	L	27-37
Dec.	22	N.Y. Giants (ot)	L	35-41
Dec.	29	at Dallas	L	16-47

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Case Keenum	247	160	1,707	11	5
Dwayne Haskins Jr.	203	119	1,365	7	7

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Adrian Peterson	211	898	4.3	5
Derrius Guice	42	245	5.8	2
Chris Thompson	37	138	3.7	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Terry McLaurin	58	919	15.8	7
Chris Thompson	42	378	9.0	0
Kelvin Harmon	30	365	12.2	0
Steven Sims Jr.	34	310	9.1	4
Paul Richardson	28	245	8.8	2

KICKING: Dustin Hopkins, 25-30 FGs, 21-22 PAT, 96 points

TACKLES: Landon Collins, 117; two tied with 105

SACKS: Matthew Ioannidis, 8.5; Montez Sweat, 7.0

INTERCEPTIONS: Quinton Dunbar, 4; Fabian Moreau, 3

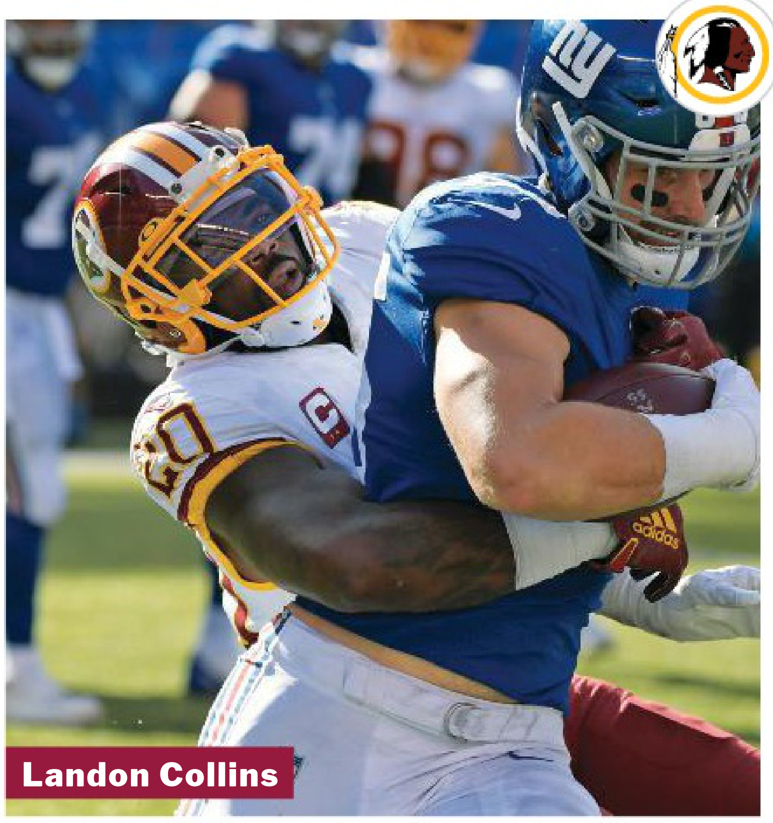
2019 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	274.7	31	16
Rushing	98.9	22	12
Passing	175.8	32	16
Scoring	16.6	32	16
Third Down %	29.1	32	16
Punt Returns	4.7	32	16
Kick Returns	25.2	4	2

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	385.1	27	14
Rushing	146.2	31	16
Passing	238.9	18	8
Scoring	27.2	27	12
Interceptions	13	T12	T5
Sacks	46	10	7
Turnover Differential	+1	T13	6

Haskins: Scott Taetsch/Getty Images; Collins: AP Photo/Bill Kostroun

Yet another critical question comes at left tackle, with both Trent Williams and Ereck Flowers now gone. Fourth-round draftee Saahdiq Charles will battle holdover Geron Christian Sr. and free agent pickup Cornelius Lucas in what could be one of the top competitions of training camp — with Charles also a candidate to shift to guard, opposite franchise-tagged right guard Brandon Scherff.


Landon Collins

DEFENSE The 49ers, after taking pass-rush phenom Nick Bosa at No. 2 overall, zoomed from 4–12 in 2018 to 13–3 and a Super Bowl berth, and the Redskins are hoping for a similar turnaround in 2020. Young, whom Bosa mentored at Ohio State, was taken in the same slot — No. 2 overall — and becomes the fifth first-round pick on the Redskins' defensive line. He registered 16.5 sacks and 21 tackles for a loss in 12 games with the Buckeyes in 2019, and he'll join former first-rounders Ryan Kerrigan (2011) and Montez Sweat (2019) in a three-man rotation as edge-rushers, though Young's well-documented ability to drop back in coverage presents unique opportunities to package all three at once. The interior is likewise solid behind former first-rounders Jonathan Allen (2017) and Daron Payne (2018). The Redskins haven't had a top-10 defense, in either points or yards allowed, since 2009, but if they manage it in 2020, this talented front will be the main reason.

The Redskins also revamped their secondary, picking up slot cornerback Kendall Fuller (whom they drafted in 2016), cornerback Ronald Darby and free safety Sean Davis in free agency and cutting loose 2019 starters Josh Norman, Quinton Dunbar and Montae Nicholson. This unit was picked apart on third-down conversions in 2019 (NFL-worst 48.9 percent), and the talent wasn't greatly upgraded, but the Redskins believe there is room for a major improvement in 2020, simply based on Young's influence on the pass rush.

The switch to a 4-3 alters the team's dynamic and needs at linebacker, but it was a mild surprise Washington didn't do much to upgrade here, other than signing veteran Thomas Davis Sr. and using a fifth-round pick on Michigan's Khaleke Hudson. It will be a big help to this group if Reuben Foster makes it all the way back from knee surgery, though that still appears an iffy bet. The Redskins will probably play mostly nickel coverage anyway, with a slot cornerback and only two true linebackers.

Del Rio saw his unit finish in the top three in the NFL in total defense in three of his last four seasons in the coordinator role, but while the talent level in Washington is trending up, getting this group to that echelon would be a surprise.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Dustin Hopkins will be in his sixth year with the team, punter Tress Way in his seventh (and coming off a Pro Bowl nod in 2019) and long-snapper Nick Sundberg in his 11th. Free agent signee Kevin Pierre-Louis is a special teams ace who could see a big role here, and Washington added other potential contributors via the draft.

The Redskins also may have landed on their 2020 kick and punt returner in Gibson, a versatile receiver/running back hybrid who averaged 28 yards per kickoff return for Memphis in 2019 and who has game-changing speed (a 4.39-second time in the 40-yard dash at the combine). The Redskins will be looking for opportunities to get him the ball with room to maneuver, and punts and kickoffs may be his quickest route to getting on the field.

FINAL ANALYSIS Rivera accomplished his major offseason objectives, making a safe but smart draft pick (Young) at No. 2 overall, shedding himself of Williams' ample baggage, boosting the depth and versatility of the roster and providing some clarity — if a tad tenuous — at quarterback. Having last posted a 10-win season in 2012 and with just one playoff victory this century, the Redskins have eroded the trust of their fans, and winning them back won't be easy. But the Redskins are now a young and hungry team — two adjectives that haven't been used around this franchise in ages. They still have their work cut out for them to get out of the NFC East cellar — the Cowboys and Giants both appear to have gotten better this offseason, and the Eagles appear to have gotten no worse. But with a little luck and a lot of patience, 2020 could see the Redskins make a major leap forward.

2020 VETERAN REDSKINS ROSTER

	QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
8	Allen, Kyle	QB	6-3	210	1	Houston	T-Car-20	FA-Car-18
7	Haskins Jr., Dwayne	QB	6-4	230	1	Ohio State	D1a-19	D1a-Was-19
11	Smith, Alex	QB	6-4	215	15	Utah	T-KC-18	D1-SF-05
	RUNNING BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
25	Barber, Peyton	RB	5-11	225	4	Auburn	FA-TB-20	FA-TB-16
36	Ferguson, Josh	RB	5-10	205	3	Illinois	FA-19	FA-Ind-16
29	Guice, Derrius	RB	5-11	225	2	LSU	D2-18	D2-Was-18
23	Love, Bryce	RB	5-9	205	1	Stanford	D4a-19	D4a-Was-19
41	McKissic, J.D.	RB	5-10	195	3	Arkansas State	FA-Det-20	FA-Atl-16
26	Peterson, Adrian	RB	6-1	220	13	Oklahoma	FA-18	D1-Min-07
	RECEIVERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
85	Baugh, Marcus	TE	6-4	245	1	Ohio State	FA-20	FA-LV-18
16	Chesson, Jehu	WR	6-2	205	3	Michigan	FA-18	D4-KC-17
80	Hall, Emanuel	WR	6-2	201	1	Missouri	FA-19	FA-Chi-19
13	Harmon, Kelvin	WR	6-2	215	1	NC State	D6-19	D6-Was-19
88	Hentges, Hale	TE	6-4	245	1	Alabama	W-Ind-19	FA-Ind-19
84	Kidsy Jr., Darvin	WR	6-0	190	1	Texas Southern	FA-19	FA-Was-18
12	Latimer, Cody	WR	6-3	222	6	Indiana	FA-NYG-20	D2-Den-14
17	McLaurin, Terry	WR	6-0	210	1	Ohio State	D3-19	D3-Was-19
18	Quinn, Trey	WR	6-0	200	2	SMU	D7b-18	D7b-Was-18
86	Rodgers, Richard	TE	6-4	257	6	California	FA-Phi-20	D3-GB-14
15	Sims Jr., Steven	WR	5-10	190	1	Kansas	FA-19	FA-Was-19
89	Sims, Cam	WR	6-5	220	1	Alabama	FA-19	FA-Was-18
87	Sprinkle, Jeremy	TE	6-5	255	3	Arkansas	D5-17	D5-Was-17
82	Thomas, Logan	TE	6-6	250	5	Virginia Tech	FA-Det-20	D4-Ari-14
14	Veasy, Jordan	WR	6-3	221	2	California	FA-19	FA-Ten-18
19	Weah, Jester	WR	6-3	209	1	Pittsburgh	FA-19	FA-Hou-18
83	Wilson, Caleb	TE	6-4	240	1	UCLA	FA-19	D7-Ari-19
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
79	Adams, Paul	T	6-6	315	1	Missouri	FA-19	FA-NYG-19
74	Christian Sr., Geron	T	6-6	315	2	Louisville	D3-18	D3-Was-18
78	Lucas, Cornelius	T	6-8	327	5	Kansas State	FA-Chi-20	FA-Det-14
67	Martin, Wes	G	6-3	315	1	Indiana	D4b-19	D4b-Was-19
76	Moses, Morgan	T	6-6	330	6	Virginia	D3a-14	D3a-Was-14
61	Parris, Timon	T	6-6	320	1	Stony Brook	FA-18	FA-Was-18
64	Pierschbacher, Ross	C	6-4	315	1	Alabama	D5a-19	D5a-Was-19
73	Roullier, Chase	C	6-4	312	3	Wyoming	D6a-17	D6a-Was-17
75	Scherff, Brandon	G	6-5	315	5	Iowa	D1-15	D1-Was-15
71	Schweitzer, Wes	G	6-4	300	4	San Jose State	FA-Atl-20	D6-Atl-16
68	Vujnovich, Jeremy	G	6-5	300	3	Louisiana College	FA-20	FA-GB-14
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
93	Allen, Jonathan	DL	6-3	300	3	Alabama	D1-17	D1-Was-17
52	Anderson, Ryan	DL	6-2	255	3	Alabama	D2-17	D2-Was-17
92	Bee, Ryan	DL	6-7	280	1	Marshall	FA-19	FA-Was-19
99	Brantley, Caleb	DL	6-2	305	3	Florida	FA-18	D6-Cle-17
98	Ioannidis, Matt	DL	6-3	310	4	Temple	D5-16	D5-Was-16
91	Kerrigan, Ryan	DL	6-4	265	9	Purdue	D1-11	D1-Was-11
94	Payne, Daron	DL	6-3	320	2	Alabama	D1-18	D1-Was-18
97	Settle, Tim	DL	6-3	308	2	Virginia Tech	D5-18	D5-Was-18
90	Sweat, Montez	DL	6-6	262	1	Mississippi State	D1b-19	D1b-Was-19
	LINEBACKERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
53	Bostic, Jon	LB	6-1	245	7	Florida	FA-19	D2-Chi-13
95	Brailford, Jordan	LB	6-3	252	1	Oklahoma State	D7b-19	D7b-Was-19
58	Davis Sr., Thomas	LB	6-1	235	15	Georgia	FA-LAC-20	D1-Car-05
56	Foster, Reuben	LB	6-1	235	3	Alabama	W-SF-18	D1-SF-17
51	Hamilton, Shaun Dion	LB	6-0	235	2	Alabama	D6-18	D6-Was-18
40	Harvey-Clemons, Josh	LB	6-4	245	3	Louisville	D7a-17	D7a-Was-17
55	Holcomb, Cole	LB	6-1	240	1	North Carolina	D5b-19	D5b-Was-19
59	Malveaux, Cameron	LB	6-5	265	3	Houston	FA-19	FA-Mia-17
50	Norris, Jared	LB	6-1	238	3	Utah	FA-20	FA-Car-16
54	Orchard, Nate	LB	6-4	251	5	Utah	FA-19	D2-Cle-15
48	Pierre-Louis, Kevin	LB	6-0	231	6	Boston College	FA-Chi-20	D4-Sea-14
	DEFENSIVE BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
30	Apke, Troy	S	6-1	205	2	Penn State	D4-18	D4-Was-18
20	Collins, Landon	S	6-0	218	5	Alabama	FA-NYG-19	D2-NYG-15
35	Darby, Ronald	CB	5-11	193	5	Florida State	FA-Phi-20	D2-Buf-15
36	Davis, Sean	S	6-1	202	4	Maryland	FA-Pit-20	D2-Pit-16
22	Everett, Deshazor	S	6-0	203	5	Texas A&M	FA-15	FA-TB-15
23	Fuller, Kendall	CB	5-11	198	4	Virginia Tech	FA-KC-20	D3-Was-16
41	Johnson, Danny	CB	5-9	181	2	Southern	FA-18	FA-Was-18
25	Moreau, Fabian	CB	6-0	204	3	UCLA	D3-17	D3-Was-17
32	Moreland, Jimmy	CB	5-11	182	1	James Madison	D7a-19	D7a-Was-19
39	Reaves, Jeremy	S	5-11	200	1	South Alabama	FA-18	FA-Phi-18
46	Smith, Maurice	DB	6-0	194	3	Georgia	FA-19	FA-Mia-17
37	Stroman, Greg	CB	6-0	182	2	Virginia Tech	D7b-19	D7b-Was-19
38	Thomas, Simeon	CB	6-3	197	1	UL Lafayette	FA-19	D6-Cle-18
	SPECIALISTS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
3	Hopkins, Dustin	K	6-2	205	6	Florida State	FA-15	D6-Buf-13
57	Sundberg, Nick	LS	6-1	245	10	California	FA-10	FA-Car-09
5	Way, Tress	P	6-1	220	6	Oklahoma	W-Chi-14	FA-Chi-13

Scouting the Redskins

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP WASHINGTON "The Redskins hired a league favorite, ex-Panthers head coach Ron Rivera, and they made a trade for Panthers QB Kyle Allen, who can push second-year QB Dwayne Haskins Jr. ... Injury-prone RB Derrius Guice has briefly flashed, and the team hopes he can rebound. They signed RB Peyton Barber to supplement 35-year-old workhorse Adrian Peterson. ... The WR unit isn't flashy but has an emerging superstar in 2019 third-round pick Terry McLaurin. The team finally gave up on TE Jordan Reed, and with Vernon Davis retiring, they're anticipating Jeremy Sprinkle becoming a solid contributor. ... They need to keep upgrading a bottom-tier OL but did manage to re-sign top-five OG Brandon Scherff. ... New defensive coordinator Jack Del Rio was bequeathed a DL that's top five in talent and features Jonathan Allen, Daron Payne, Matt Ioannidis and the best player in the 2020 draft, DE Chase Young, but the rest of the defense is suspect. ... They have quality depth at ILB, and it will be a competitive battle to see who emerges. They added veteran CBs Ronald Darby and Kendall Fuller in free agency to complement their instinctive zone scheme. Safety Landon Collins is the leader of this defense, but who will be the other starter on the back end? ... This is the worst team in the NFC, but at least Rivera will have a few seasons to get the ship turned around."

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS ➕

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
QB	Kyle Allen	Carolina
CB	Ronald Darby	Philadelphia
FS	Sean Davis	Pittsburgh
LB	Thomas Davis Sr.	L.A. Chargers
CB	Kendall Fuller	Kansas City
WR	Cody Latimer	N.Y. Giants
OT	Cornelius Lucas	Chicago
RB	J.D. McKissic	Detroit
LB	Kevin Pierre-Louis	Chicago
G	Wes Schweitzer	Atlanta
TE	Logan Thomas	Detroit

KEY LOSSES ➖

POS.	PLAYER	2020 TEAM
TE	Vernon Davis	Retired
CB	Quinton Dunbar	Seattle
G	Ereck Flowers	Miami
QB	Case Keenum	Cleveland
QB	Colt McCoy	N.Y. Giants
S	Montae Nicholson	Free Agent
CB	Josh Norman	Buffalo
TE	Jordan Reed	Free Agent
RB	Chris Thompson	Jacksonville
LT	Trent Williams	San Francisco

Offseason Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR	17	Terry McLaurin	89	Cam Sims
WR	13	Kelvin Harmon	12	Cody Latimer
WR	18	Trey Quinn	15	Steven Sims Jr.
LT	78	Cornelius Lucas	74	Geron Christian Sr.
LG	71	Wes Schweitzer	67	Wes Martin
C	73	Chase Roullier	64	Ross Pierschbacher
RG	75	Brandon Scherff	67	Wes Martin
RT	76	Morgan Moses	61	Timon Parris
TE	82	Logan Thomas	87	Jeremy Sprinkle
QB	7	Dwayne Haskins Jr.	8	Kyle Allen
RB	26	Adrian Peterson	29	Derrius Guice

DEFENSE

DE	90	Montez Sweat	52	Ryan Anderson
DT	94	Daron Payne	97	Tim Settle
DT	93	Jonathan Allen	98	Matt Ioannidis
DE	99	Chase Young (R)	91	Ryan Kerrigan
WLB	56	Reuben Foster	47	Khaleke Hudson (R)
MLB	53	Jon Bostic	51	Shaun Dion Hamilton
SLB	58	Thomas Davis Sr.	55	Cole Holcomb
CB	25	Fabian Moreau	35	Ronald Darby
CB	23	Kendall Fuller	32	Jimmy Moreland
FS	36	Sean Davis	22	Deshazor Everett
SS	20	Landon Collins	39	Jeremy Reaves

SPECIALISTS

K	3	Dustin Hopkins	KR	15	Steven Sims Jr.
P	5	Tress Way	PR	15	Steven Sims Jr.

Bruce Schwartzman

Redskins *in the Draft* | Grade: B

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	**Chase Young**	**DE**	**6-5**	**264**	**Ohio State**
3.	Antonio Gibson	RB/WR	6-0	228	Memphis
4.	Saahdiq Charles	OT	6-4	321	LSU
4.	Antonio Gandy-Golden	WR	6-4	223	Liberty
5.	Keith Ismael	C/G	6-3	309	San Diego State
5.	Khaleke Hudson	LB	5-11	224	Michigan
7.	Kamren Curl	S	6-1	206	Arkansas
7.	James Smith-Williams	DE	6-4	265	NC State

After flirting with different options with the No. 2 overall pick, Ron Rivera, in his first draft for the Redskins, did the smart, obvious thing by taking Chase Young, the QB-destroying edge rusher with the almost limitless ceiling. From there, Rivera, sticking to his M.O., largely valued versatility. Antonio Gibson is a weapons-grade WR/RB/KR in the mold of Christian McCaffrey; Gibson ran a 4.39 40 at the combine. Khaleke Hudson is a LB/S hybrid, and Keith Ismael can play any interior line position. Rivera also found value in some picks whose stock had fallen — particularly Saahdiq Charles, who failed several drug tests at LSU, and James Smith-Williams, who had trouble staying on the field at NC State. The most intriguing pick could be Antonio Gandy-Golden, a big, physical playmaker whom some analysts have compared to Calvin Johnson.

Outside the Huddle

TARGETING MR. COOPER Though the Redskins were notably restrained in free agency this offseason, making only modest additions, they did apparently have grander ambitions in at least one case. The Redskins reportedly targeted Amari Cooper, offering the free agent wide receiver a $100 million deal, only to see him spurn them and re-sign with the rival Cowboys instead.

CLIMBING THE CHARTS Running back Adrian Peterson enters 2020 ranked fifth all-time in career rushing yardage (14,216), trailing Barry Sanders by 1,053 yards for fourth place. Though he is 35 this season, Peterson has been remarkably durable with Washington, playing in 31 of 32 games since joining the team prior to the 2018 season, a key factor in the Redskins' decision to exercise his option for 2020.

STILL HOPEFUL Veteran quarterback Alex Smith remains on the team's payroll (at $20 million, with the largest cap hit on the team) and says he still hopes to play again, despite a gruesome leg injury in Nov. 2018 that kept him sidelined for all of 2019, with still no signs as to when he might return. He spent most of 2019 watching games from owner Daniel Snyder's suite, leading to speculation he may move into a front office role with the team if he doesn't return to the field.

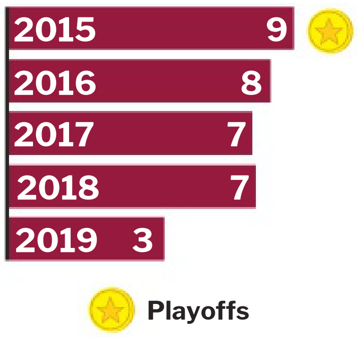
LAST CHANCE? Veteran defensive end Ryan Kerrigan endured a nightmarish 2019, seeing his consecutive-games streak end at 139 and registering a career-low 5.5 sacks. That, plus his $11.7 million cap hit, led to rampant speculation he could be cut before the 2020 season begins. But the Redskins also know he had 37 sacks from 2016-18, and they hope the shift to a 4-3 base could open room for him and fellow edge rushers Chase Young and Montez Sweat.

END OF AN ERA A trade completed on the third day of the NFL Draft brought to a close the prolific but turbulent Trent Williams era in D.C. The seven-time Pro Bowl left tackle, who turns 32 in July, had accused the previous regime of mishandling his cancer scare, and his departure from the team was a fait accompli. Though lacking in leverage, the Redskins managed to pry a fifth-round pick in 2020 and a third-round pick in 2021 from San Francisco in exchange for Williams, and perhaps more importantly, the trade also left the Redskins with ample cap space for future investments.

SON OF THE FREAK The Redskins made one intriguing post-draft signing, nabbing undrafted TE Thaddeus Moss, son of Hall of Famer Randy Moss. It won't be an easy path to a roster spot, let alone a contributing role, but coming out of the draft the Redskins still didn't have an obvious starter at the position, despite signing veterans Logan Thomas and Richard Rodgers as free agents.

CHARLOTTE NORTH In part due to the Williams controversy, but also to a rash of injuries in recent years, the Redskins overhauled their medical staff and protocols in the offseason. Fitting Rivera's mission of turning Washington into Charlotte North, the team hired as its head trainer Ryan Vermillion, who previously worked under Rivera in Carolina. He replaces Larry Hess, who was fired in December after 17 years with the team.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



NUMBERS TO KNOW

48.9

Washington's defense allowed conversions on 48.9 percent of their opponents' third-down attempts, highest in the NFL.

29.1

Washington's offense converted a league-low 29.1 percent of its third-down attempts.

-6.88

Washington's offense faced an average game script of -6.88, averaging almost a touchdown deficit over the course of the season.

Chicago BEARS

NFC North Forecast: 3

THE ORGANIZATION

Chairman: George H. McCaskey
President/CEO: Ted Phillips
General Manager: Ryan Pace
Director of Player Personnel: Josh Lucas
Stadium: Soldier Field (61,500)
Surface: Grass
Website: www.chicagobears.com
Tickets: 847-615-BEAR (2327)
Training Camp: Olivet Nazarene University (Bourbonnais, Ill.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Matt Nagy
Record With Team: 20-12
Career Record: 20-12
Offensive Coordinator: Bill Lazor
Defensive Coordinator: Chuck Pagano
Special Teams Coordinator: Chris Tabor
Quarterbacks: John DeFilippo
Running Backs: Charles London
Wide Receivers: Mike Furrey
Tight Ends: Clancy Barone
Offensive Line: Juan Castillo
Defensive Line: Jay Rodgers
Inside Linebackers: Mark DeLeone
Senior Defensive Assistant/Outside Linebackers: Ted Monachino
Secondary: Deshea Townsend
Safeties: Sean Desai

It was no secret that the Bears' primary concern in the offseason was improving a quarterback situation that was abysmal last year with Mitchell Trubisky, the second overall draft pick in 2017. To that end, GM Ryan Pace, whose legacy is intertwined with Trubisky's, swung a trade for Nick Foles. The eight-year veteran has combined tremendous success under the brightest lights with injury and journeyman-type mediocrity. The Bears go to training camp characterizing the situation as an "open competition," but the smart money says Foles will be leading the team sooner rather than later.

Despite last season's disappointing 8–8 finish following a 12–4 campaign in 2018, the Bears still have a playoff-caliber defense. But they need drastic improvement on offense, specifically at quarterback, if they are to return to the playoffs.

OFFENSE Trubisky regressed in 2019, failing to demonstrate a stronger grasp of the offense in his second year in the same system and third season as the Bears' starter. His lack of ability to see the field is also a concern, and he seemed loathe to use his athleticism and running ability to salvage plays as he had done proficiently in 2018. Foles, the Super Bowl LII MVP, could be an upgrade, but he's no sure thing. He suffered a fractured clavicle on the Jaguars' second series of the 2019 opener and then, after he returned, lost his job on merit to sixth-round rookie Gardner Minshew. Foles has started just 13 regular-season games in the last four years.

Wide receiver Allen Robinson II was the only reliable offensive threat the Bears possessed in 2019, and the offense should once again run through him. Robinson caught 98 passes for 1,147 yards and seven touchdowns. Wide receiver Anthony Miller averaged 12.6 yards on 52 catches but scored just twice and will be coming off yet another shoulder surgery. Miller is tough and has had some big-play moments, including seven touchdowns as a rookie in 2018, but he would benefit from more consistency and greater attention to detail in his route running. The Bears have done little to upgrade the supporting cast at wide receiver, which was woefully inadequate in 2019.

The addition of way-past-his-prime Jimmy Graham is an upgrade at tight end, but that's not saying much, considering the position was a wasteland in 2019. In his heyday, the 33-year-old Graham was a red zone menace, but he has averaged 11.7 yards on a combined 93 catches the past two seasons with just five touchdowns. By using their first draft pick (second round, 43rd overall) on Notre Dame's Cole Kmet, the first tight end taken in the draft, the Bears believe they've turned the position into a strength.

The Bears were 29th in scoring in 2019 (17.5 points per game) and 31st in yards per play (4.7), and the attack was nearly devoid of explosive plays, as Trubisky finished No. 32 in passing yards per attempt at 6.1. Aside from Graham and Kmet, there have been no significant additions at the skill positions, disappointing given the lack of game-changing performances last season. Pint-sized running back Tarik Cohen caught 79 passes but averaged just 5.8 yards per catch.

As a rookie, third-round draft pick David Montgomery flashed the tackle-breaking talent that characterized his career at Iowa State. But he was sometimes underutilized in an offense that has failed to consistently commit to the run game in two years under Nagy. He's expected to play a larger role this year. Cohen was a productive complement as a rookie in 2018, but he spent too much time running diagonally in 2019 and averaged just 3.3 yards per carry.

2020 SCHEDULE			2019 NFL RANKINGS				
Date	Opponent	Time	2019 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 13	at Detroit	1:00	3-12-1	346.8 (17)	400.4 (31)	21.3 (t18)	26.4 (26)
Sept. 20	N.Y. Giants	1:00	4-12	338.5 (23)	377.3 (25)	21.3 (t18)	28.2 (30)
Sept. 27	at Atlanta	1:00	7-9	379.7 (5)	355.8 (20)	23.8 (13)	24.9 (23)
Oct. 4	Indianapolis	1:00	7-9	327.4 (25)	346.8 (16)	22.6 (t16)	23.3 (18)
Oct. 8	Tampa Bay (Thu.)	8:20	7-9	397.9 (3)	343.9 (15)	28.6 (t3)	28.1 (29)
Oct. 18	at Carolina	1:00	5-11	341.8 (19)	374.5 (23)	21.2 (20)	29.4 (31)
Oct. 26	at L.A. Rams (Mon.)	8:15	9-7	374.9 (7)	339.6 (13)	24.6 (11)	22.8 (17)
Nov. 1	New Orleans	4:25	13-3	373.9 (9)	333.1 (11)	28.6 (t3)	21.3 (13)
Nov. 8	at Tennessee	1:00	9-7	362.8 (12)	359.5 (21)	25.1 (10)	20.7 (12)
Nov. 16	Minnesota (Mon.)	8:15	10-6	353.5 (16)	341.6 (14)	25.4 (8)	18.9 (t5)
BYE							
Nov. 29	at Green Bay	8:20	13-3	345.5 (18)	352.6 (18)	23.5 (15)	19.6 (9)
Dec. 6	Detroit	1:00	3-12-1	346.8 (17)	400.4 (31)	21.3 (t18)	26.4 (26)
Dec. 13	Houston	1:00	10-6	362.0 (13)	388.3 (28)	23.6 (14)	24.1 (19)
Dec. 20	at Minnesota	1:00	10-6	353.5 (16)	341.6 (14)	25.4 (8)	18.9 (t5)
Dec. 27	at Jacksonville	1:00	6-10	341.8 (20)	375.4 (24)	18.8 (26)	24.8 (21)
Jan. 3	Green Bay	1:00	13-3	345.5 (18)	352.6 (18)	23.5 (15)	19.6 (9)

Todd Rosenberg via AP

Khalil Mack

LINEBACKER

2019 RESULTS (8-8)

Sept.	**5**	Green Bay	L	3-10
Sept.	**15**	at Denver	W	16-14
Sept.	**23**	at Washington	W	31-15
Sept.	**29**	Minnesota	W	16-6
Oct.	**6**	at Oakland	L	21-24
Oct.	**20**	New Orleans	L	25-36
Oct.	**27**	L.A. Chargers	L	16-17
Nov.	**3**	at Philadelphia	L	14-22
Nov.	**10**	Detroit	W	20-13
Nov.	**17**	at L.A. Rams	L	7-17
Nov.	**24**	N.Y. Giants	W	19-14
Nov.	**28**	at Detroit	W	24-20
Dec.	**5**	Dallas	W	31-24
Dec.	**15**	at Green Bay	L	13-21
Dec.	**22**	Kansas City	L	3-26
Dec.	**29**	Minnesota	W	21-19

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Mitchell Trubisky	516	326	3,138	17	10
Chase Daniel	64	45	435	3	2

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
David Montgomery	242	889	3.7	6
Tarik Cohen	64	213	3.3	0
Mitchell Trubisky	48	193	4.0	2

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Allen Robinson II	98	1,147	11.7	7
Anthony Miller	52	656	12.6	2
Tarik Cohen	79	456	5.8	3
Taylor Gabriel	29	353	12.2	4
Javon Wims	18	186	10.3	1

KICKING: Eddy Piñeiro, 23-28 FGs, 27-29 PAT, 96 points

TACKLES: Roquan Smith, 101; Kyle Fuller, 82

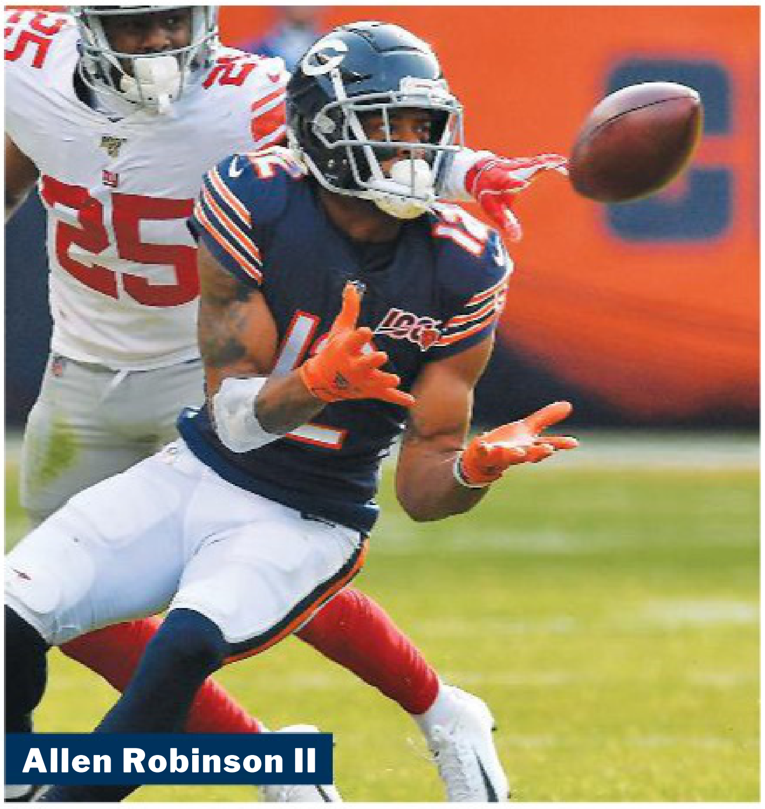
SACKS: Khalil Mack, 8.5; Nick Williams, 6.0

INTERCEPTIONS: Kyle Fuller, 3; two tied with 2

2019 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	296.8	29	15
Rushing	91.1	27	15
Passing	205.7	25	15
Scoring	17.5	29	15
Third Down %	35.7	25	14
Punt Returns	9.2	T6	T2
Kick Returns	26.6	1	1

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	324.1	8	2
Rushing	102.0	9	4
Passing	222.1	9	2
Scoring	18.6	4	1
Interceptions	10	T25	T12
Sacks	32	T24	13
Turnover Differential	0	T15	T7


Allen Robinson II

Evan Pinkus via AP

The performance up front was so disappointing in 2019 that it cost well-respected offensive line coach Harry Hiestand his job. Four of the five starters are expected to return: left tackle Charles Leno Jr., right tackle Bobby Massie, center Cody Whitehair and left guard James Daniels. Veteran free agent addition Germain Ifedi is expected to fill the void at right guard left by Kyle Long, who was released after multiple injuries made him just a shell of his former Pro Bowl self. But Ifedi will have to battle Rashaad Coward, a project who has some upside. This group has not distinguished itself as pass protectors (21st in sacks allowed) or as run blockers. The ground game averaged just 3.69 yards per attempt, ranking 29th.

DEFENSE In its first season under new defensive coordinator Chuck Pagano, this unit was not quite as lethal as it was in 2018, mainly because big plays dropped precipitously. The Bears plummeted to 26th in interception rate and 27th in sack percentage last year after ranking first and ninth, respectively, a year earlier. Still, Pagano's crew allowed just one point more per game than Vic Fangio's last Bears defense.

The group still has Pro Bowl performers at all three levels: Akiem Hicks up front, outside linebacker Khalil Mack, cornerback Kyle Fuller and safety Eddie Jackson. The Bears found out last season just how valuable Hicks is. An elbow injury in Week 3 limited him to just two more games, both of which he played at less than full strength, and his absence was noticeable. The Bears allowed 13 points per game before Hicks was hurt, but 20 per game after that. Mack felt the loss of Hicks as much as anyone, as his sacks dropped from 12.5 to 8.5, his lowest total since his rookie season.

The Bears finally pulled the plug on outside linebacker Leonard Floyd, who never approached his potential. To replace him, they signed nine-year veteran Robert Quinn, whose production as a pass rusher — 80.5 career sacks, including 11.5 last season — gives the team a proven sack man, rather than the promise of one. Quinn was a two-time Pro Bowler with the Rams in 2013 and '14, when he had 29.5 sacks. Roquan Smith and Danny Trevathan provide an excellent young-old mix at inside linebacker, provided Trevathan stays healthy. He's missed 18 games in his four years as a Bear, including seven last season. Smith, the eighth overall draft pick in 2018, is a difference-maker with Pro Bowl potential. But the free-agency loss of Nick Kwiatkoski robs them of an ascending player.

The biggest question mark is who will replace nine-year veteran cornerback Prince Amukamara, a solid three-year starter in Chicago who was a salary-cap casualty. It could be free agent Artie Burns, a 2016 first-round pick who never worked out in Pittsburgh. The Bears also like the size-speed-athleticism combo of Kevin Toliver, II a pet project since he went undrafted out of LSU in 2018. But second-round pick Jaylon Johnson should have every opportunity to earn the starting spot opposite Fuller. The Bears need to replace Ha Ha Clinton-Dix, who didn't do enough to earn a long-term deal; meanwhile, they have invested heavily in Jackson ($58.4 million over four years).

SPECIALISTS The Bears hope Eddy Piñeiro will be the long-term solution to the kicking dilemma that has haunted the team since the ill-advised decision to cut Robbie Gould before the 2016 season. Pineiro connected on an acceptable 82.1 percent of his field-goal attempts last year, although it's worth noting that Gould has hit 90.5 percent of his three-pointers since leaving Chicago. Punter Pat O'Donnell is solid, while Cordarrelle Patterson has been an All-Pro kickoff returner three times, including last year. Patterson's arrival allowed Tarik Cohen to focus on punt returns, where he is excellent.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Bears can't afford to ignore Trubisky's deficiencies any longer if they harbor playoff/championship aspirations in 2020. If he doesn't show marked improvement early on, the job goes to Foles. But does Foles have the ability to elevate a still-flawed offense? Whoever lines up at quarterback has to be better than Trubisky was last year, and the same can be said at every position on the offense.

Scouting the Bears

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP CHICAGO "The Windy City had high expectations for 2018 Coach of the Year Matt Nagy after the Bears made the playoffs in his first season. But their worst nightmare became a reality — missing the playoffs in 2019 and everyone questioning GM Ryan Pace on taking QB Mitchell Trubisky over Patrick Mahomes and Deshaun Watson. They made an offseason trade for QB Nick Foles to compete with Trubisky for the starting spot. ... Expect more touches for playmaker Tarik Cohen and RB David Montgomery. Allen Robinson II once again played like a top-10 WR, and Anthony Miller is coming on strong, but look for a dark horse to emerge. ... This is the highest-paid TE group in the NFL but had one of the lowest outputs. Therefore, they signed TE Jimmy Graham, who hopes for a career revival, and drafted TE Cole Kmet — but what about Adam Shaheen? ... The OL gets masked with their offensive style, but there was a glaring weakness at RG. ... With ILB Roquan Smith becoming a rising star, the return of DT Akiem Hicks and addition of pass rusher Robert Quinn to complement All-Pro edge Khalil Mack, this is one of the most dominant front sevens in the NFL. ... CB Kyle Fuller has made consecutive Pro Bowls, but who will start opposite of him? Eddie Jackson is the best ballhawk safety in the NFL, but it will be a training camp battle to see who emerges as the opposite starter. ... It's a make-it-or-break-it type of season for Trubisky and this regime."

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
CB	Artie Burns	Pittsburgh
QB	Nick Foles	Jacksonville
TE	Jimmy Graham	Green Bay
S	Jordan Lucas	Kansas City
OLB	Robert Quinn	Dallas
OLB	Barkevious Mingo	Houston
OL	Germain Ifedi	Seattle

KEY LOSSES −

POS.	PLAYER	2020 TEAM
CB	Prince Amukamara	Las Vegas
TE	Trey Burton	Indianapolis
S	Ha Ha Clinton-Dix	Dallas
QB	Chase Daniel	Detroit
OLB	Leonard Floyd	L.A. Rams
WR	Taylor Gabriel	Free Agent
ILB	Nick Kwiatkoski	Las Vegas
OL	Cornelius Lucas	Washington
LB	Kevin Pierre-Louis	Washington
DT	Nick Williams	Detroit

Offseason Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR	12	Allen Robinson II	83	Javon Wims
WR	84	Cordarrelle Patterson	88	Riley Ridley
WR	17	Anthony Miller	19	Ted Ginn Jr.
LT	72	Charles Leno Jr.	78	Jason Spriggs
LG	68	James Daniels	62	Corey Levin
C	65	Cody Whitehair	67	Sam Mustipher
RG	74	Germain Ifedi	69	Rashaad Coward
RT	70	Bobby Massie	64	Alex Bars
TE	80	Jimmy Graham	85	Cole Kmet (R)
QB	9	Nick Foles	10	Mitchell Trubisky
RB	32	David Montgomery	29	Tarik Cohen

DEFENSE

DE	96	Akiem Hicks	95	Roy Robertson-Harris
DT	91	Eddie Goldman	76	Abdullah Anderson
DE	98	Bilal Nichols	92	Brent Urban
OLB	52	Khalil Mack	50	Barkevious Mingo
ILB	59	Danny Trevathan	45	Joel Iyiegbuniwe
ILB	58	Roquan Smith	55	Josh Woods
OLB	94	Robert Quinn	47	Isaiah Irving
CB	23	Kyle Fuller	24	Buster Skrine
CB	33	Jaylon Johnson (R)	22	Kevin Toliver II
S	39	Eddie Jackson	27	Sherrick McManis
S	38	Tashaun Gipson Sr.	26	Deon Bush

SPECIALISTS

K	15	Eddy Piñeiro	KR	84	Cordarrelle Patterson
P	16	Pat O'Donnell	PR	29	Tarik Cohen

2020 VETERAN BEARS ROSTER

	QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
8	Bray, Tyler	QB	6-6	223	6	Tennessee	FA-KC-18	FA-KC-13
9	Foles, Nick	QB	6-6	243	8	Arizona	T-Jac-20	D3-Phi-12
10	Trubisky, Mitchell	QB	6-2	215	3	North Carolina	D1-17	D1-Chi-17

	RUNNING BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
29	Cohen, Tarik	RB	5-6	191	3	North Carolina A&T	D4b-17	D4b-Chi-17
32	Montgomery, David	RB	5-10	222	1	Iowa State	D3-19	D3-Chi-19
35	Nall, Ryan	RB	6-2	239	1	Oregon State	FA-18	FA-Chi-18

	RECEIVERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
82	Braunecker, Ben	TE	6-3	247	4	Harvard	FA-16	FA-Chi-16
44	Clark, Darion	TE	6-7	220	1	Grand Canyon	FA-20	FA-Chi-20
18	Davis, Reggie	WR	5-11	185	1	Georgia	FA-19	FA-Atl-17
4	Davis, Trevor	WR	6-1	188	4	California	FA-Mia-20	D5-GB-16
19	Ginn Jr., Ted	WR	5-11	180	13	Ohio State	FA-NO-20	D1-Mia-07
80	Graham, Jimmy	TE	6-7	265	10	Miami	FA-GB-20	D3-NO-10
86	Harris, Demetrius	TE	6-7	230	6	Wisc.-Milwaukee	FA-Cle-20	FA-KC-13
81	Holtz, J.P.	TE	6-3	255	1	Pittsburgh	W-Was-19	FA-Cle-16
49	Horsted, Jesper	TE	6-3	237	1	Princeton	FA-19	FA-Chi-19
14	Ives, Thomas	WR	6-4	218	1	Colgate	FA-19	FA-Chi-19
17	Miller, Anthony	WR	5-11	199	2	Memphis	D2b-18	D2b-Chi-18
84	Patterson, Cordarrelle	WR	6-2	238	7	Tennessee	FA-NE-19	D1c-Min-13
88	Ridley, Riley	WR	6-1	200	1	Georgia	D4-19	D4-Chi-19
12	Robinson II, Allen	WR	6-2	220	6	Penn State	FA-Jac-18	D2a-Jac-14
43	Saubert, Eric	TE	6-5	253	3	Drake	PS-LV-19	D5-Atl-17
87	Shaheen, Adam	TE	6-6	257	3	Ashland	D2-17	D2-Chi-17
13	Wesley, Alex	WR	6-0	191	1	Northern Colorado	FA-19	FA-NYG-19
83	Wims, Javon	WR	6-2	221	2	Georgia	D7-18	D7-Chi-18

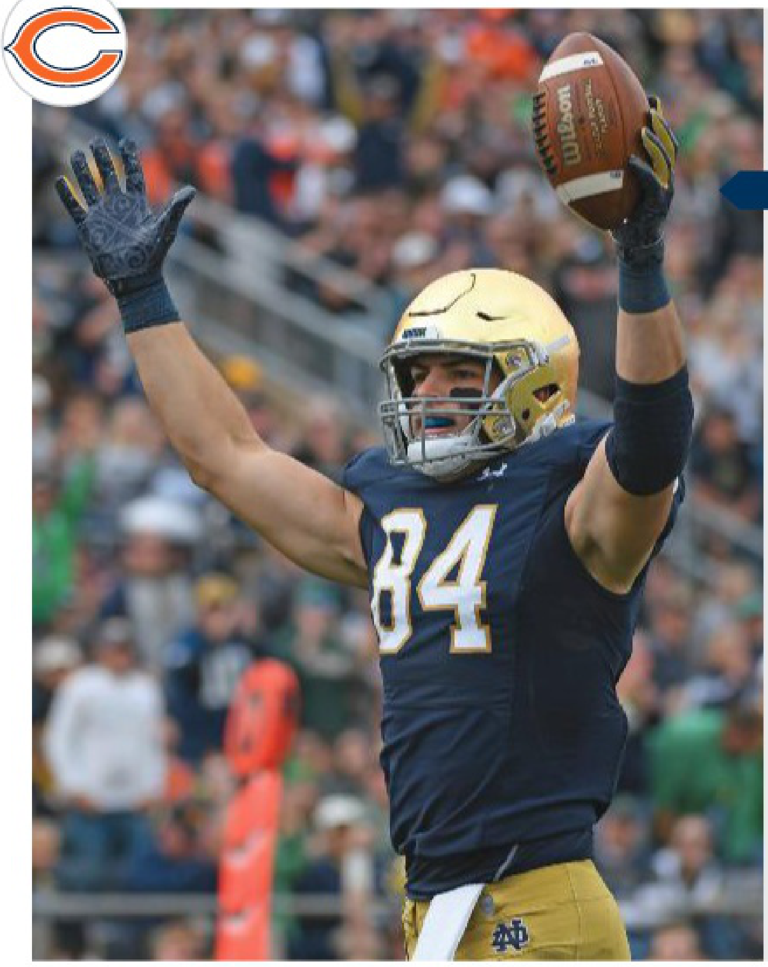
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
64	Bars, Alex	OL	6-5	314	1	Notre Dame	FA-19	FA-Chi-19
78	Boyd, Dino	OL	6-4	300	1	Cincinnati	FA-19	FA-KC-19
69	Coward, Rashaad	OL	6-5	326	2	Old Dominion	FA-17	FA-Chi-17
68	Daniels, James	OL	6-3	305	2	Iowa	D2a-18	D2a-Chi-18
74	Ifedi, Germain	OL	6-5	325	4	Texas A&M	FA-Sea-20	D1-Sea-16
72	Leno Jr., Charles	OL	6-3	307	6	Boise State	D7-14	D7-Chi-14
60	Levin, Corey	OL	6-4	307	2	Chattanooga	PS-Den-19	D6-Ten-17
70	Massie, Bobby	OL	6-6	325	8	Ole Miss	FA-Ari-16	D4-Ari-12
67	Mustipher, Sam	OL	6-2	311	1	Notre Dame	FA-19	FA-Chi-19
78	Spriggs, Jason	OL	6-6	301	4	Indiana	FA-GB-20	D2-GB-16
65	Whitehair, Cody	OL	6-3	309	4	Kansas State	D2-16	D2-Chi-16

	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
76	Anderson, Abdullah	DL	6-3	297	1	Bucknell	FA-18	FA-Chi-18
91	Goldman, Eddie	NT	6-3	318	5	Florida State	D2-15	D2-Chi-15
96	Hicks, Akiem	DT	6-4	352	8	Regina	FA-NE-16	D3-NO-12
90	Jenkins, John	DT	6-3	327	7	Georgia	FA-Mia-20	D3-NO-13
98	Nichols, Bilal	DT	6-3	313	2	Delaware	D5-18	D5-Chi-18
95	Robertson-Harris, Roy	DE	6-5	292	3	UTEP	FA-16	FA-Chi-16
92	Urban, Brent	DL	6-7	300	5	Virginia	FA-19	D4-Bal-14

	LINEBACKERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
53	Bond, Devante	LB	6-1	236	3	Oklahoma	FA-19	D6-TB-16
47	Irving, Isaiah	LB	6-3	254	3	San Jose State	FA-17	FA-Chi-17
45	Iyiegbuniwe, Joel	LB	6-1	226	2	Western Kentucky	D4-18	D4-Chi-18
52	Mack, Khalil	LB	6-3	269	6	Buffalo	T-LV-18	D1-LV-14
50	Mingo, Barkevious	LB	6-5	235	7	LSU	FA-Hou-20	D1-Cle-13
94	Quinn, Robert	LB	6-4	260	9	North Carolina	FA-Dal-20	D1-LAR-11
58	Smith, Roquan	LB	6-0	230	2	Georgia	D1-18	D1-Chi-18
59	Trevathan, Danny	LB	6-0	237	8	Kentucky	FA-Den-16	D6-Den-12
93	Vaughters, James	LB	6-1	256	1	Stanford	FA-19	FA-GB-15
55	Woods, Josh	LB	6-1	236	1	Maryland	FA-18	FA-Chi-18

	DEFENSIVE BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
43	Brice, Kentrell	S	5-11	200	3	Louisiana Tech	FA-20	FA-GB-16
25	Burns, Artie	CB	6-0	197	4	Miami	FA-Pit-20	D1-Pit-16
26	Bush, Deon	S	6-0	200	4	Miami	D4b-16	D4b-Chi-16
20	Crawford, Xavier	CB	5-11	187	1	Central Michigan	FA-19	D6-Hou-19
37	Denmark, Stephen	S	6-2	217	1	Valdosta State	D7b-19	D7b-Chi-19
23	Fuller, Kyle	CB	5-11	194	6	Virginia Tech	D1-14	D1-Chi-14
38	Gipson, Tashaun	S	6-1	212	8	Wyoming	FA-Hou-20	FA-Cle-12
36	Houston-Carson, DeAndre	S	6-0	202	3	William & Mary	D6-16	D6-Chi-16
39	Jackson, Eddie	S	6-0	204	3	Alabama	D4a-17	D4a-Chi-17
30	Joseph, Michael	CB	6-0	194	1	Dubuque	FA-18	FA-Chi-18
21	Lucas, Jordan	S	6-1	190	4	Penn State	FA-KC-20	D6-Mia-16
27	McManis, Sherrick	DB	5-11	203	10	Northwestern	T-Hou-12	D5-Hou-10
31	Roberson, Tre	CB	6-0	200	1	Illinois State	FA-20	FA-Min-16
33	Shelley, Duke	CB	5-8	183	1	Kansas State	D6-19	D6-Chi-19
24	Skrine, Buster	CB	5-9	187	9	Chattanooga	FA-NYJ-19	D5a-Cle-11
22	Toliver II, Kevin	DB	6-2	199	2	LSU	FA-18	FA-Chi-18

	SPECIALISTS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
6	Ahmed, Ramiz	K	6-0	190	1	Nevada	FA-20	FA-Chi-20
16	O'Donnell, Pat	P	6-4	212	6	Miami	D6b-14	D6b-Chi-14
15	Pineiro, Eddy	K	5-11	177	2	Florida	T-LV-19	FA-LV-18
48	Scales, Patrick	LS	6-3	228	4	Utah State	FA-15	FA-Bal-11



Bears *in the Draft* | Grade: C+

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
2.	**Cole Kmet**	**TE**	**6-6**	**262**	**Notre Dame**
2.	Jaylon Johnson	CB	6-0	195	Utah
5.	Trevis Gipson	OLB	6-4	253	Tulsa
5.	Kindle Vildor	CB	5-11	190	Georgia Southern
5.	Darnell Mooney	WR	5-11	174	Tulane
7.	Arlington Hambright	OL	6-5	300	Colorado
7.	Lachavious Simmons	OL	6-5	315	Tennessee State

The Bears had nine tight ends on their roster before they drafted Cole Kmet, but only Jimmy Graham is considered a pass-catching threat, which is Kmet's forte. Jaylon Johnson had labrum surgery after the combine but could start as a rookie given the Bears' lack of cornerback talent beyond Kyle Fuller. Kindle Vildor adds depth at corner, probably in the slot, with solid cover skills but not much physicality. Trevis Gipson is a late bloomer who could contend for a situational role as a pass rusher. Darnell Mooney is an undersized, explosive receiver who probably projects best inside. The Bears waited to address their offensive line with a couple projects in Arlington Hambright and Lachavious Simmons from FCS school Tennessee State.

Outside the Huddle

HOW FOLES GOT HIS GROOVE BACK In 2016, when both were with the Chiefs, Bears head coach Matt Nagy helped quarterback Nick Foles rekindle a passion for the game that had nearly been extinguished during a depressing 2015 with the Rams. Nagy was the Chiefs' assistant offensive coordinator on Andy Reid's staff, while Foles was a backup behind Alex Smith. Foles saw major action in only two games, but the Chiefs won them both, and Foles, who had contemplated retirement, found the spark that would propel him to a renaissance. "Once again, the love of football came back because of the people that I was stepping into the huddle with and going to work (with) every day," Foles says. "It had nothing to do with football. It had to do with the culture. Four days into training camp, I started loving the game."

NUMBERS GAME It took a lot of creative financial machinations for Foles to become a Bear. A year ago, he signed a four-year, $88 million deal with the Jaguars and was paid $31 million but lost his job to sixth-round rookie Gardner Minshew. To facilitate the trade, which cost the Bears a fourth-round draft pick, Foles left $57 million in Jacksonville and agreed to accept $4 million in base salary and $4 million in bonuses in each of the three years on his Bears deal. With incentives and escalators, Foles can add several million dollars more in each of the next three years.

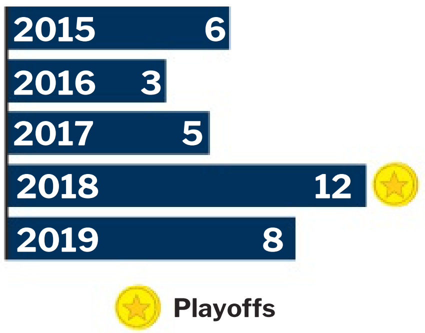
WHERE'S THE PRODUCTION? For the first time since 1970, not a single Bears tight end accumulated 100 receiving yards for the season. The top three players on the depth chart — Trey Burton (since cut), Adam Shaheen and Ben Braunecker — all spent time on injured reserve. Free agent Jimmy Graham, even on the downside of his career, addresses a critical need. From 2011-17, the five-time Pro Bowler averaged 75 catches, 921 yards and nine touchdowns.

GOING OLD SCHOOL With NFL facilities shuttered because of the coronavirus, players without home gyms resorted to whatever means necessary to stay in shape. Braunecker maintained his strength by lifting beds, reclining chairs and other furniture as well as heavy rocks.

THE MIGHTY QUINN According to Next Gen Stats, free agent edge rusher Robert Quinn generated pressure on 14.0 percent of his pass rushes last season, second in the NFL behind only the Packers' Za'Darius Smith (14.6). Quinn finished ahead of the 49ers' Nick Bosa (13.9), the Jaguars' Josh Allen (13.8) and the Rams' Aaron Donald (13.5). Quinn's 11.5 sacks in 2019 were his most since a career-best 19 in 2013.

PRIME TIME IN TIME OF NEED In eight prime-time games over two seasons with the Bears, outside linebacker Khalil Mack has eight sacks with seven forced fumbles, two fumble recoveries and an interception returned for a touchdown. Mack's 19 forced fumbles since the start of the 2015 season are second in the NFL. In mid-April, Mack donated $350,000 to a COVID-19 relief emergency fund operated by A Better Chicago, a self-described "venture philanthropy fund fighting poverty by investing in initiatives that serve low-income youth."

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



NUMBERS TO KNOW

32.6

Bears opponents started their drives, on average, at their own 32.6-yard line. Chicago's defense had the worst starting field position in the NFL by more than a yard.

3.4

Bears receivers averaged a league-low 3.4 yards after catch in 2019 per Sportradar data.

7.9

Mitch Trubisky's average depth of target declined from 8.8 yards in 2018 to 7.9 in 2019 per NFL Next Gen Stats.

Robin Alam/Icon via AP

Detroit LIONS

NFC North Forecast: 4

THE ORGANIZATION

Owner/Chairman: Martha Firestone Ford
President: Rod Wood
Executive VP/General Manager: Bob Quinn
VP of Player Personnel: Kyle O'Brien
Director of Player Personnel: Lance Newmark
Stadium: Ford Field (65,000)
Surface: FieldTurf
Website: www.detroitlions.com
Tickets: 313-262-2222
Training Camp: Detroit Lions Training Facility (Allen Park, Mich.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Matt Patricia
Record With Team: 9-22-1
Career Record: 9-22-1
Offensive Coordinator: Darrell Bevell
Defensive Coordinator: Cory Undlin
Special Teams Coordinator: Brayden Coombs
Quarterbacks: Sean Ryan
Running Backs: Kyle Caskey
Wide Receivers: Robert Prince
Tight Ends: Ben Johnson
Offensive Line: Hank Fraley
Defensive Line: Bo Davis
Linebackers: Tyrone McKenzie
Defensive Backs: Steve Gregory

After a dismal 3–12–1 finish in his second season as head coach, Matt Patricia got a reprieve from ownership last winter. So did general manager Bob Quinn, who now finds himself on the hot seat along with the man he hired in 2018 with the promise of building a consistent winner. That hasn't happened, obviously. And while a roster overhaul and some key injuries are partly to blame — quarterback Matthew Stafford's back problems helped derail the Lions' hopes in 2019 — patience is running thin, fueled by fan unrest and declining attendance at Ford Field.

OFFENSE The Lions got off to a fast start in 2019, yet their season effectively ended in early November when Stafford was sidelined after suffering fractures in his back in a loss at Oakland. It's the second back injury in as many years for Stafford, 32, who watched the Lions go 0-8 without him after he played at a Pro Bowl level early in the season. He was on pace to throw for 5,000 yards and was thriving under new coordinator Darrell Bevell, whose scheme emphasized Stafford's play-action ability and a downfield passing attack.

After Stafford went down, the Lions' backup carousel — 11 different quarterbacks spent time on the roster in 2019 — struggled to do the job. Third-stringer David Blough, who started five games as an undrafted rookie, remains on the roster as a developmental option. But the Lions went out and signed veteran Chase Daniel to fill the No. 2 role for now.

The turnover was even more problematic in the run game, where six different backs started a game last season and the production suffered as a result. Kerryon Johnson, whose impressive rookie debut in 2018 raised hopes, needs to shake the injury-prone label after stints on injured reserve his first two seasons. The Lions added insurance by taking Georgia's D'Andre Swift with the 35th overall pick in the draft, a move that gives Bevell two young, versatile backs to use in tandem. Swift broke Todd Gurley's school record by averaging 6.6 yards per carry in college, and the Lions are enamored with his big-play ability as a runner and receiver. The Lions also brought in fifth-rounder Jason Huntley, a speed back who wowed scouts at his pro day, to compete with last year's rookie burner Ty Johnson, while Bo Scarbrough showed some promise as a power back late last season.

The Lions let starting right guard Graham Glasgow walk in free agency, then spent a chunk of draft capital to replace him. Rookies Jonah Jackson (Ohio State) and Logan Stenberg (Kentucky) are both run-blocking maulers who play with a nasty streak, and they'll compete with Kenny Wiggins and Joe Dahl for starting roles at guard. The new right tackle is Halapoulivaati Vaitai, who signed a five-year, $50 million deal after spending most of his first four NFL seasons as the swing tackle behind Pro Bowlers in Philadelphia. Left tackle Taylor Decker is due for an extension at the end of his rookie deal.

So is receiver Kenny Golladay after he posted consecutive 1,000-yard seasons and led the NFL with 11 TD catches in 2019. With Stafford taking more shots downfield, the Lions have two sure-handed weapons on the outside in Golladay and Marvin Jones Jr., though the latter is entering a contract year at age 30 and has finished the last two seasons on IR. Stafford also found a reliable target underneath in veteran Danny Amendola, who returns on another one-year deal and shows no signs of slowing down. Detroit is counting on a big leap forward from last year's first-round pick, T.J. Hockenson, at tight end. His season ended at Thanksgiving due to an ankle injury, while backup Jesse James looked like a free-agent bust for the Lions last season.

2020 SCHEDULE

			2019 NFL RANKINGS				
Date	Opponent	Time	2019 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 13	Chicago	1:00	8-8	296.8 (29)	324.1 (8)	17.5 (29)	18.6 (4)
Sept. 20	at Green Bay	1:00	13-3	345.5 (18)	352.6 (18)	23.5 (15)	19.6 (9)
Sept. 27	at Arizona	4:25	5-10-1	341.7 (21)	402.0 (32)	22.6 (t16)	27.6 (28)
Oct. 4	New Orleans	1:00	13-3	373.9 (9)	333.1 (11)	28.6 (t3)	21.3 (13)
BYE							
Oct. 18	at Jacksonville	1:00	6-10	341.8 (20)	375.4 (24)	18.8 (26)	24.8 (21)
Oct. 25	at Atlanta	1:00	7-9	379.7 (5)	355.8 (20)	23.8 (13)	24.9 (23)
Nov. 1	Indianapolis	1:00	7-9	327.4 (25)	346.8 (16)	22.6 (t16)	23.3 (18)
Nov. 8	at Minnesota	1:00	10-6	353.5 (16)	341.6 (14)	25.4 (8)	18.9 (t5)
Nov. 15	Washington	1:00	3-13	274.7 (31)	385.1 (27)	16.6 (32)	27.2 (27)
Nov. 22	at Carolina	1:00	5-11	341.8 (19)	374.5 (23)	21.2 (20)	29.4 (31)
Nov. 26	Houston (Thu.)	12:30	10-6	362.0 (13)	388.3 (28)	23.6 (14)	24.1 (19)
Dec. 6	at Chicago	1:00	8-8	296.8 (29)	324.1 (8)	17.5 (29)	18.6 (4)
Dec. 13	Green Bay	1:00	13-3	345.5 (18)	352.6 (18)	23.5 (15)	19.6 (9)
Dec.19/20	at Tennessee	TBD	9-7	362.8 (12)	359.5 (21)	25.1 (10)	20.7 (12)
Dec.26/27	Tampa Bay	TBD	7-9	397.9 (3)	343.9 (15)	28.6 (t3)	28.1 (29)
Jan. 3	Minnesota	1:00	10-6	353.5 (16)	341.6 (14)	25.4 (8)	18.9 (t5)

Matthew Stafford

QUARTERBACK

2019 RESULTS (3-12-1)

Sept. 9	at Arizona (ot)	T	27-27
Sept. 15	L.A. Chargers	W	13-10
Sept. 22	at Philadelphia	W	27-24
Sept. 29	Kansas City	L	30-34
Oct. 14	at Green Bay	L	22-23
Oct. 20	Minnesota	L	30-42
Oct. 27	N.Y. Giants	W	31-26
Nov. 3	at Oakland	L	24-31
Nov. 10	at Chicago	L	13-20
Nov. 17	Dallas	L	27-35
Nov. 24	at Washington	L	16-19
Nov. 28	Chicago	L	20-24
Dec. 8	at Minnesota	L	7-20
Dec. 15	Tampa Bay	L	17-38
Dec. 22	at Denver	L	17-27
Dec. 29	Green Bay	L	20-23

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Matthew Stafford	291	187	2,499	19	5
David Blough	174	94	984	4	6
Jeff Driskel	105	62	685	4	4

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Kerryon Johnson	113	403	3.6	3
Bo Scarbrough	89	377	4.2	1
Ty Johnson	63	273	4.3	0
J.D. McKissic	38	205	5.4	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Kenny Golladay	65	1,190	18.3	11
Marvin Jones Jr.	62	779	12.6	9
Danny Amendola	62	678	10.9	1
T.J. Hockenson	32	367	11.5	2

KICKING: Matt Prater, 26-31 FGs, 35-36 PAT, 113 points

TACKLES: Tracy Walker, 103; Tavon Wilson, 98

SACKS: Trey Flowers, 7.0; Devon Kennard, 7.0

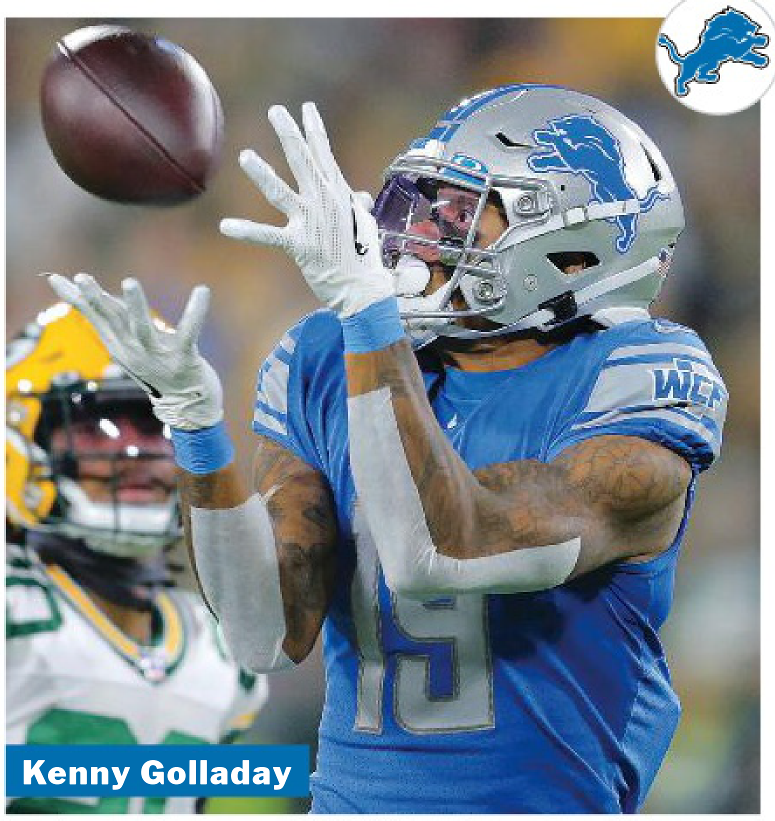
INTERCEPTIONS: Amani Oruwariye, 2; Darius Slay, 2

2019 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	346.8	17	10
Rushing	103.1	21	11
Passing	243.8	10	6
Scoring	21.3	T18	12
Third Down %	40.9	14	8
Punt Returns	7.9	11	5
Kick Returns	24.5	7	3

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	400.4	31	15
Rushing	115.9	21	11
Passing	284.4	32	16
Scoring	26.4	26	11
Interceptions	7	T30	T14
Sacks	28	T29	T14
Turnover Differential	-5	T24	T12

Stafford: Peter Brouillet; Golladay: Detroit Lions via AP



Kenny Golladay

DEFENSE Detroit's defense was a disaster, allowing a whopping 6,406 yards — just shy of the franchise record set during the team's winless 2008 season. The Lions also finished 26th in scoring defense, tied for 29th in sacks, and tied for the fewest interceptions in the league (seven). Then came the acrimonious departures nose tackle Damon Harrison and Pro Bowl cornerback Darius Slay, who blasted Patricia as "disrespectful" on his way out the door to Philadelphia via trade.

The Lions signed ex-Falcons cornerback Desmond Trufant to replace Slay as the No. 1 cornerback. The other starter should be rookie Jeff Okudah, the Ohio State star the Lions tabbed with the No. 3 overall pick in the draft. Okudah, a technician and willing tackler, looks like an ideal fit for the Lions, who play more man coverage than any other NFL team. His arrival allows Justin Coleman to stick to the slot corner role where he's most comfortable, while last year's rookie, Amani Oruwariye, adds solid depth.

The Lions believe they have a cornerstone piece in third-year safety Tracy Walker, who led the team in tackles in his first year as a full-time starter. He'll be joined by free agent pickup Duron Harmon, who spent his first five NFL seasons playing for Patricia in New England. Will Harris, forced into an expanded role as a rookie, is back at safety.

Only two NFL teams blitzed less than the Lions last season, and the lack of a consistent pass rush left the secondary hung out to dry. Trey Flowers, last year's prize free agent, averaged five quarterback pressures a game the second half of the season and remains the anchor. But he'll be surrounded by a different cast, with Danny Shelton replacing Harrison in the middle and another ex-Patriot, Jamie Collins Sr., filling the role opened by Devon Kennard's release. Collins adds more versatility and coverage ability in that stand-up role, while Shelton is coming off a career-best year in tackles and sacks. The Lions signed Nick Williams off a career year in Chicago to replace A'Shawn Robinson at the other tackle spot, along with Da'Shawn Hand, a promising third-year tackle beset by injuries. Romeo Okwara's sack production tailed off last season, but the Lions doubled up on Okwaras by drafting his brother, Julian, in the third round. A team captain at Notre Dame, the younger Okwara adds another long, explosive rusher off the edge at the Jack linebacker position, joining Austin Bryant, who spent most of his rookie season in 2019 rehabbing an injury.

This feels like a make-or-break year for Jarrad Davis, a strong leader who has excelled as a blitzer but struggled in coverage. The Lions waited until after the draft to make the decision to decline his fifth-year option; meanwhile, Jahlani Tavai ate into his playing time last year as a rookie, making some splash plays as he grew more comfortable. The Lions also signed Reggie Ragland, who started seven games for Kansas City last year, while outside backer Christian Jones had already signed a two-year extension in November 2019.

SPECIALISTS For the second straight year, there's a new special-teams coordinator in Brayden Coombs. GM Quinn also made several moves targeting return and coverage units, re-signing Miles Killebrew and adding core special-teamers in linebacker Elijah Lee and defensive backs Jayron Kearse and Tony McRae.

Veteran Matt Prater returns as one of the league's most reliable kickers. But the Lions will have a new punter after letting Sam Martin go in free agency, leaving practice-squad addition Jack Fox and Australian Arryn Siposs, an undrafted rookie out of Auburn, to battle it out initially. The return jobs also are up in the air, as Jamal Agnew couldn't repeat his Pro Bowl rookie season and the Lions drafted a possible replacement in Huntley.

FINAL ANALYSIS The GM, the head coach and the franchise quarterback all are under contract through 2022. But Stafford's hefty contract won't prohibit a trade after this season, and the Ford family is getting antsy. As Lions owner Martha Firestone Ford put it last December in announcing Quinn and Patricia would return, "We expect to be a playoff contender (in 2020) … which we've expressed to both Bob and to Matt." If not, major changes could be in store.

2020 VETERAN LIONS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
10	Blough, David	QB	6-1	205	1	Purdue	T-Cle-19	FA-Cle-19
4	Daniel, Chase	QB	6-0	229	11	Missouri	FA-Chi-20	FA-Was-09
9	Stafford, Matthew	QB	6-3	220	11	Georgia	D1a-09	D1a-Det-09

RUNNING BACKS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
46	Bawden, Nick	FB	6-2	245	2	San Diego State	D7-18	D7-Det-18
36	Hills, Wes	RB	6-0	218	1	Slippery Rock	FA-19	FA-Ari-19
33	Johnson, Kerryon	RB	5-11	211	2	Auburn	D2-18	D2-Det-18
31	Johnson, Ty	RB	5-10	210	1	Maryland	D6b-19	D6b-Det-19
43	Scarbrough, Bo	RB	6-1	235	2	Alabama	FA-19	D7-Dal-18

RECEIVERS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
18	Allison, Geronimo	WR	6-3	202	4	Illinois	FA-GB-20	FA-GB-16
80	Amendola, Danny	WR	5-11	185	11	Texas Tech	FA-Mia-19	FA-Dal-08
13	Bolden, Victor	WR	5-8	178	2	Oregon State	FA-19	FA-SF-17
12	Davis, Geremy	WR	6-3	211	5	Connecticut	FA-LAC-20	D6-NYG-15
14	Fulgham, Travis	WR	6-2	215	1	Old Dominion	D6a-19	D6a-Det-19
19	Golladay, Kenny	WR	6-4	214	3	Northern Illinois	D3-17	D3-Det-17
17	Hall, Marvin	WR	5-10	190	3	Washington	FA-19	FA-LV-16
88	Hockenson, T.J.	TE	6-5	247	1	Iowa	D1-19	D1-Det-19
83	James, Jesse	TE	6-7	250	5	Penn State	FA-Pit-19	D5-Pit-15
11	Jones Jr., Marvin	WR	6-2	199	8	California	FA-Cin-16	D5-Cin-12
18	Kearse, Jermaine	WR	6-1	210	8	Washington	FA-19	FA-Sea-12
85	Kennedy, Tom	WR	5-10	194	1	Bryant	FA-19	FA-Det-19
15	Lacy, Chris	WR	6-3	206	1	Oklahoma State	FA-18	FA-Det-18
89	Nauta, Isaac	TE	6-3	246	1	Georgia	D7a-19	D7a-Det-19
84	Sokol, Matt	TE	6-5	249	1	Michigan State	FA-19	FA-LAC-19

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
76	Aboushi, Oday	OL	6-5	315	7	Virginia	FA-Ari-19	D5-NYJ-13
74	Benenoch, Caleb	G/T	6-5	305	4	UCLA	W-Dal-19	D5-TB-16
63	Benzschawel, Beau	G	6-6	300	1	Wisconsin	FA-19	FA-Det-19
60	Bodine, Russell	C	6-3	308	5	North Carolina	FA-19	D4-Cin-14
65	Crosby, Tyrell	OL	6-4	310	2	Oregon	D5-18	D5-Det-18
66	Dahl, Joe	G	6-4	310	4	Washington State	D5-16	D5-Det-16
68	Decker, Taylor	T	6-7	318	4	Ohio State	D1-16	D1-Det-16
50	Garnett, Josh	G	6-5	305	2	Stanford	FA-20	D1-SF-16
67	Nelson, Matt	T	6-7	299	1	Iowa	FA-19	FA-Det-19
77	Ragnow, Frank	OL	6-5	311	2	Arkansas	D1-18	D1-Det-18
70	Skipper, Dan	T	6-9	317	2	Arkansas	W-Hou-19	FA-Dal-17
72	Vaitai, Halapoulivaati	T/G	6-6	320	4	TCU	FA-Phi-20	D5b-Phi-16
79	Wiggins, Kenny	G	6-6	315	6	Fresno State	FA-LAC-18	FA-SF-11

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
99	Atkins, John	DT	6-3	320	1	Georgia	FA-18	FA-NE-18
94	Bryant, Austin	DE	6-6	261	1	Clemson	D4-19	D4-Det-19
96	Daniels, Mike	DT	6-0	310	8	Iowa	FA-19	D4-GB-12
90	Flowers, Trey	DE	6-2	265	5	Arkansas	FA-NE-19	D4a-NE-15
93	Hand, Da'Shawn	DL	6-3	297	2	Alabama	D4-18	D4-Det-18
75	Herron, Frank	DT	6-4	305	1	LSU	FA-19	FA-NE-18
95	Okwara, Romeo	DE	6-4	263	4	Notre Dame	W-NYG-18	FA-NYG-16
78	Sagapolu, Olive	DT	6-2	331	1	Wisconsin	FA-19	FA-GB-19
71	Shelton, Danny	DT	6-2	345	5	Washington	FA-NE-20	D1a-Cle-15
92	Strong, Kevin	DT	6-4	285	1	UTSA	FA-19	FA-Det-19
97	Williams, Nick	DT	6-4	308	5	Samford	FA-Chi-20	D7-Pit-13
69	Wynn, Jonathan	DE	6-4	260	1	Vanderbilt	FA-18	FA-Min-18

LINEBACKERS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
53	Cabinda, Jason	LB	6-1	235	2	Penn State	FA-19	FA-LV-18
58	Collins Sr., Jamie	LB	6-3	255	7	Southern Miss	FA-NE-20	D2-NE-13
40	Davis, Jarrad	LB	6-1	245	3	Florida	D1-17	D1-Det-17
52	Jones, Christian	LB	6-3	250	6	Florida State	FA-Chi-18	FA-Chi-14
55	Lee, Elijah	LB	6-2	230	3	Kansas State	FA-SF-20	D7-Min-17
54	Longa, Steve	LB	6-0	240	3	Rutgers	FA-16	FA-Sea-16
57	Pittman, Anthony	LB	6-3	240	1	Wayne State	FA-19	FA-Det-19
59	Ragland, Reggie	LB	6-2	252	4	Alabama	FA-KC-20	D2-Buf-16
44	Reeves-Maybin, Jalen	LB	6-0	233	3	Tennessee	D4a-17	D4a-Det-17
59	Sam, Christian	LB	6-2	240	1	Arizona State	FA-19	D6-NE-18
51	Tavai, Jahlani	LB	6-2	250	1	Hawaii	D2-19	D2-Det-19

DEFENSIVE BACKS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
39	Agnew, Jamal	CB	5-10	190	3	San Diego	D5-17	D5-Det-17
27	Coleman, Justin	CB	5-11	190	5	Tennessee	FA-Sea-19	FA-Min-15
38	Ford, Mike	CB	6-0	198	2	Southeast Missouri	FA-18	FA-Det-18
26	Harmon, Duron	DB	6-1	205	7	Rutgers	T-NE-20	D3b-NE-13
25	Harris, Will	S	6-1	207	1	Boston College	D3-19	D3-Det-19
28	Jackson, Michael	CB	6-1	210	1	Miami	FA-19	D5-Dal-19
32	Kearse, Jayron	S	6-4	215	4	Clemson	FA-Min-20	D7b-Min-16
35	Killebrew, Miles	S	6-2	222	4	Southern Utah	D4-16	D4-Det-16
34	McRae, Tony	CB	5-10	185	3	North Carolina A&T	FA-Cin-20	FA-LV-16
49	Moore, C.J.	S	5-11	195	1	Ole Miss	FA-19	FA-Det-19
24	Oruwariye, Amani	CB	6-2	205	1	Penn State	D5-19	D5-Det-19
29	Roberts, Darryl	CB	6-0	182	5	Marshall	FA-NYJ-20	D7-NE-15
23	Trufant, Desmond	CB	6-0	190	7	Washington	FA-Atl-20	D1-Atl-13
30	Virgin, Dee	CB	5-9	195	2	West Alabama	FA-18	FA-Hou-17
21	Walker, Tracy	DB	6-1	210	2	UL Lafayette	D3-18	D3-Det-18
32	Wilson, Tavon	S	6-0	208	8	Illinois	FA-NE-16	D2-NE-12

SPECIALISTS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
3	Fox, Jack	P	6-2	224	1	Rice	FA-19	FA-KC-19
48	Muhlbach, Don	LS	6-4	258	16	Texas A&M	FA-04	FA-Bal-04
5	Prater, Matt	K	5-10	201	13	UCF	FA-14	FA-Det-06

Scouting the Lions

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP DETROIT "They drafted star RB D'Andre Swift to help take the load off RB Kerryon Johnson after an injury-riddled season. … Darrell Bevell dialed up a lethal passing attack that still finished top 10 with an underrated WR group featuring deep threat Kenny Golladay, veteran Marvin Jones Jr. and consistent slot WR Danny Amendola. … This OL has improved drastically under GM Bob Quinn's tenure and got better with the signing of versatile OL Halapoulivaati Vaitai. … Defensive-minded head coach Matt Patricia will be tasked with improving one of the worst defenses in the NFL last season. DE Trey Flowers is dependable, but they have no other dynamic pass rushers. … ILB Jarrad Davis has been a huge disappointment, so they signed versatile ex-Patriot LB Jamie Collins to help. … They traded away Pro Bowl CB Darius Slay, so they added veteran CB Desmond Trufant and Jeff Okudah, the best CB in the draft. They made a trade with the Patriots for rangy playmaker Duron Harmon — important considering they only had seven INTs as a defense. … It'll be a big year for this organization. If they stumble again, we could see a new regime in Detroit."

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
WR	Geronimo Allison	Green Bay
LB	Jamie Collins	New England
QB	Chase Daniel	Chicago
S	Duron Harmon	New England
S	Jayron Kearse	Minnesota
LB	Elijah Lee	San Francisco
CB	Tony McRae	Cincinnati
LB	Reggie Ragland	Kansas City
CB	Darryl Roberts	N.Y. Jets
DT	Danny Shelton	New England
CB	Desmond Trufant	Atlanta
RT	Halapoulivaati Vaitai	Philadelphia
DT	Nick Williams	Chicago

KEY LOSSES −

POS.	PLAYER	2020 TEAM
DT	Mike Daniels	Free Agent
QB	Jeff Driskel	Denver
C/G	Graham Glasgow	Denver
DT	Damon Harrison	Free Agent
LB	Devon Kennard	Arizona
P	Sam Martin	Denver
RB	J.D. McKissic	Washington
CB	Rashaan Melvin	Jacksonville
DT	A'Shawn Robinson	L.A. Rams
CB	Darius Slay	Philadelphia
TE	Logan Thomas	Washington
RT	Ricky Wagner	Green Bay
S	Tavon Wilson	Free Agent

Offseason Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR	19	Kenny Golladay	80	Danny Amendola
WR	11	Marvin Jones Jr.	18	Geronimo Allison
LT	68	Taylor Decker	65	Tyrell Crosby
LG	79	Kenny Wiggins	73	Jonah Jackson (R)
C	77	Frank Ragnow	63	Beau Benzschawel
RG	66	Joe Dahl	76	Oday Aboushi
RT	72	Halapoulivaati Vaitai	65	Tyrell Crosby
TE	88	T.J. Hockenson	83	Jesse James
QB	9	Matthew Stafford	4	Chase Daniel
RB	33	Kerryon Johnson	43	Bo Scarbrough
RB	6	D'Andre Swift (R)	31	Ty Johnson

DEFENSE

DE	95	Romeo Okwara	93	Da'Shawn Hand
DT	71	Danny Shelton	99	John Atkins
DT	93	Da'Shawn Hand	97	Nick Williams
DE	90	Trey Flowers	45	Julian Okwara (R)
OLB	58	Jamie Collins Sr.	94	Austin Bryant
MLB	40	Jarrad Davis	51	Jahlani Tavai
OLB	52	Christian Jones	55	Elijah Lee
CB	23	Desmond Trufant	27	Justin Coleman
CB	1	Jeff Okudah (R)	24	Amani Oruwariye
SS	26	Duron Harmon	32	Jayron Kearse
FS	21	Tracy Walker	25	Will Harris

SPECIALISTS

K	5	Matt Prater	KR	41	Jason Huntley (R)
P	3	Jack Fox	PR	39	Jamal Agnew

Bruce Schwartzman

Lions *in the Draft* | Grade: B+

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	**Jeff Okudah**	**CB**	**6-1**	**205**	**Ohio State**
2.	D'Andre Swift	RB	5-8	212	Georgia
3.	Julian Okwara	DE	6-4	252	Notre Dame
3.	Jonah Jackson	OG	6-3	306	Ohio State
4.	Logan Stenberg	OG	6-6	317	Kentucky
5.	Quintez Cephus	WR	6-1	202	Wisconsin
5.	Jason Huntley	RB	5-9	193	New Mexico State
6.	John Penisini	DT	6-1	318	Utah
7.	Jashon Cornell	DE	6-3	285	Ohio State

Jeff Okudah was the best all-around cornerback in the draft, but he sold the Lions with his work ethic and study habits. D'Andre Swift adds another dimension as a dual threat out of the backfield. Julian Okwara's length and closing speed are traits Matt Patricia covets in a sub-package rush specialist. Jonah Jackson improved his draft stock with a grad-transfer year at Ohio State, then impressed Lions staff at the Senior Bowl. Logan Stenberg didn't allow a sack as a senior, but he'll need to cut down on penalties. Jason Huntley's initial impact should come in the return game, though Lions could add a third-down role to utilize his speed. John Penisini's strength as a run-stuffer gives him a shot. Jashon Cornell caught the Lions' eyes while they scouted the Buckeyes' higher-rated prospects.

Outside the Huddle

COACHING CRITICISM Three-time Pro Bowl cornerback Darius Slay had some sharp criticism for Matt Patricia and his harsh coaching style on his way out the door in March. Slay's comments echoed those made by other former Lions who left via trade or free agency or were released in the past year, including veterans Damon Harrison, Glover Quin and Quandre Diggs. But GM Bob Quinn says he "has no concerns with that at all." "I think you can go ask anybody in the locker room right now what they think of Coach and how he runs the team, and they're 100 percent behind him," Quinn says. "You can't make everybody happy in this business in terms of how you do certain things."

DRAFT DISTANCING Teams took elaborate steps to make sure the NFL's virtual draft went smoothly in April, and the Lions were no different. Steve Lancaster, the team's director of information technology, rented a Winnebago and spent all three days of the draft parked in Quinn's driveway to help monitor the GM's home network and troubleshoot any problems.

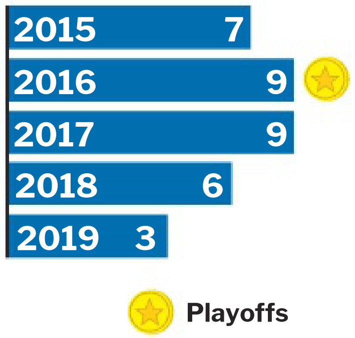
LESSONS FROM COVID-19 One of Quinn's takeaways from this year's stay-at-home draft process amid the COVID-19 pandemic was how much less stressful it felt without all the travel and time spent at the office. "This could be a good lesson for us to have a good balance in our lives in the offseason," he says. "The draft is critically important to what we do, but maybe we can tone down the hours and work smarter rather than longer, maybe do a few things virtually a day or two a week. … It's hard being a coach or a scout or a GM in this league, when you're away all the time or in the office all the time. If we can figure out a better work-life balance for the months of February, March and April — I'm all for it."

OH BROTHER Julian Okwara told reporters at the NFL scouting combine in February he'd already warned his older brother, Romeo, they could be roommates again if Detroit drafted him this spring. After TV cameras captured their tearful celebration at home when the Lions made him a third-round selection, Julian insisted he wasn't joking. "I'm looking forward to living a rent-free year," he laughed.

NASTY, IN A GOOD WAY Fourth-round pick Logan Stenberg developed a reputation for aggressive play as a guard at Kentucky. And though he knows he'll have to limit after-the-whistle penalties as a pro, he knows why many scouts loved his game. "I'll tell you what my best asset is: I'm a nasty player. I like to block and finish guys."

NEVER GIVE UP Newly signed defensive tackle Nick Williams played for three teams his first four years in the NFL and was out of a job for the entire 2017 season. Even those closest to him wondered if it was time for a new career. "It kind of comes across your head when you're kind of in the thick of it," Williams says. "My family started kind of like, 'Oh, what you gonna do, man? You need to go get a job or something like that.' But I always knew I'd get another opportunity." He got one with the Bears in 2018, and after a breakout season in 2019, he signed a two-year, $10 million deal with the Lions.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



NUMBERS TO KNOW

10.4

The Lions allowed an average target distance of 10.4 yards in 2019, higher than any non-Dolphins team.

9.6

The Lions' average depth of target per pass attempt was 9.6 yards in 2019, higher than any non-Bucs team.

4.0

Detroit's defense ended just 4.0 percent of its drives by picking off the opposing quarterback, lowest in the NFL.

Green Bay PACKERS

NFC North Forecast: 2

THE ORGANIZATION

Executive Committee/Board of Directors President/CEO: Mark Murphy
Sr. Advisor to Football Operations: Ted Thompson
General Manager: Brian Gutekunst
Stadium: Lambeau Field (81,441)
Surface: Grass
Website: www.packers.com
Tickets: 866-752-1265
Training Camp: St. Norbert College (De Pere, Wis.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Matt LaFleur
Record With Team: 13-3
Career Record: 13-3
Offensive Coordinator: Nathaniel Hackett
Defensive Coordinator: Mike Pettine
Special Teams Coordinator: Shawn Mennenga
Quarterbacks/Passing Game Coordinator: Luke Getsy
Running Backs: Ben Sirmans
Wide Receivers: Jason Vrable
Tight Ends: Justin Outten
Offensive Line: Adam Stenavich
Defensive Line: Jerry Montgomery
Inside Linebackers: Kirk Olivadotti
Outside Linebackers: Mike Smith
Defensive Backs: Jerry Gray

Throughout the offseason, Green Bay Packers general manager Brian Gutekunst had been repeatedly asked whether he would consider using an early draft pick on a quarterback. And time and time again, he answered in the affirmative.

And so, in the days leading up to the 2020 NFL Draft, the person who'd be most affected by such a selection — two-time NFL MVP quarterback Aaron Rodgers — was asked how he would feel if Gutekunst did indeed do as he said he might.

"Look, I'm realistic. I know where we're at as an organization and where I'm at in my career," Rodgers replied. "I still feel like I have a ton of years left playing at a high level. I'm confident enough. I've always felt like it doesn't matter who you bring in, they're not going to be able to beat me out any time soon. I feel really confident about my abilities and my play.

"I'd obviously love to bring guys in that are going to be able to play and compete right away. (But) I understand it's a business. I wouldn't have a problem."

We shall see. Because 15 years to the day after the Packers drafted Rodgers to be Brett Favre's eventual replacement, Gutekunst drafted Utah State quarterback Jordan Love in the first round, trading up to take Rodgers' heir apparent at No. 26 overall.

And as a result, the specter of the clock ticking on Rodgers' time in Green Bay and as the Packers' starter looms, even with the Packers coming off an unexpected 13–3 finish and berth in the NFC Championship Game under first-year coach Matt LaFleur. Whatever drama comes with the way the Packers added Rodgers' likely successor — and failure to add meaningful pass-catching help despite the fact that 13 wide receivers were picked in the first two rounds — will add another layer to what already figures to be a challenging encore season after last year's surprisingly successful run.

"In my mind, I think Aaron is by far the best quarterback I've ever been around. I think he's the best ever to play the game," LaFleur said after the draft. "I hope he can play until he decides he doesn't want to play anymore."

OFFENSE Although every team in the league entered the spring unsure of how disruptive the COVID-19 pandemic would be to their offseason work, LaFleur had been particularly eager to get back with his team and onto the practice field so he could build on the offensive foundation that had been set during his first season. He was eager to revamp the offensive verbiage to get Rodgers in and out of the huddle more quickly; expand the playbook to include an up-tempo approach he never really got to as a play-caller last year; and integrate more creative play-calling and play-action passes after using some holdover schemes from predecessor Mike McCarthy's system.

Instead, any changes had to be instituted virtually, with players scattered about the country and forced to endure video-conferenced meetings and workouts. How that will impact Rodgers as he tries to get more comfortable with LaFleur in Year Two remains to be seen. Rodgers completed 62 percent of his passes for 4,002 yards with 26 TDs, four interceptions and 36 sacks, finishing with a passer rating of 95.4. It was the third-lowest single-season passer rating of his 12-year career as the Packers starting QB, and a rating that put him a middling 12th in the NFL last season.

The Packers did add to the run game, with bruising 247-pound second-round pick AJ Dillon set to pair with quick and sudden Aaron Jones, who is coming off his first 1,000-yard season and

2020 SCHEDULE

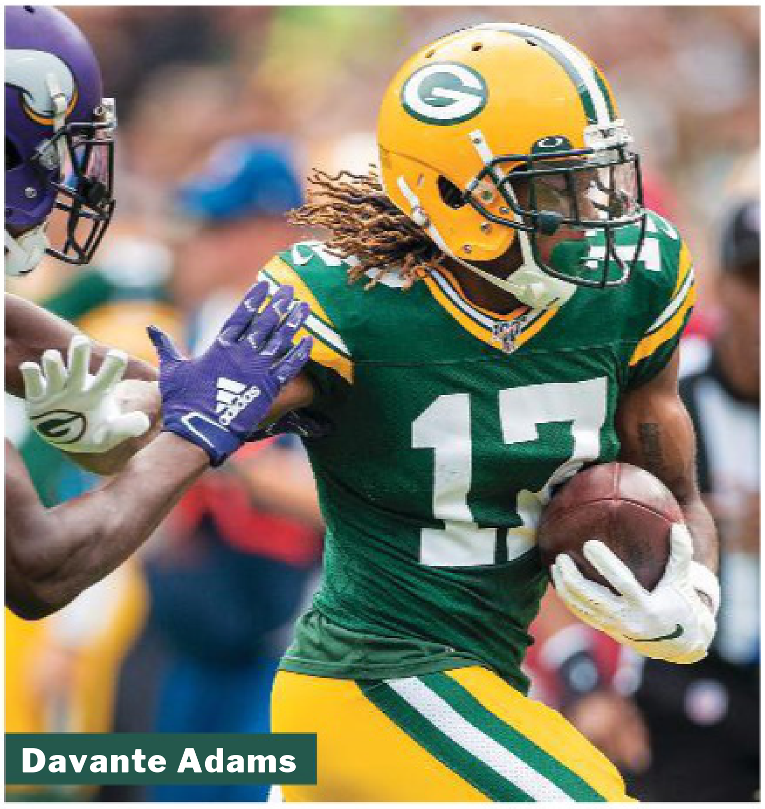
2019 NFL RANKINGS

Date	Opponent	Time	2019 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 13	at Minnesota	1:00	10-6	353.5 (16)	341.6 (14)	25.4 (8)	18.9 (t5)
Sept. 20	Detroit	1:00	3-12-1	346.8 (17)	400.4 (31)	21.3 (t18)	26.4 (26)
Sept. 27	at New Orleans	8:20	13-3	373.9 (9)	333.1 (11)	28.6 (t3)	21.3 (13)
Oct. 5	Atlanta (Mon.)	8:15	7-9	379.7 (5)	355.8 (20)	23.8 (13)	24.9 (23)
BYE							
Oct. 18	at Tampa Bay	4:25	7-9	397.9 (3)	343.9 (15)	28.6 (t3)	28.1 (29)
Oct. 25	at Houston	1:00	10-6	362.0 (13)	388.3 (28)	23.6 (14)	24.1 (19)
Nov. 1	Minnesota	1:00	10-6	353.5 (16)	341.6 (14)	25.4 (8)	18.9 (t5)
Nov. 5	at San Francisco (Thu.)	8:20	13-3	381.1 (4)	281.8 (2)	29.9 (2)	19.4 (8)
Nov. 15	Jacksonville	1:00	6-10	341.8 (20)	375.4 (24)	18.8 (26)	24.8 (21)
Nov. 22	at Indianapolis	1:00	7-9	327.4 (25)	346.8 (16)	22.6 (t16)	23.3 (18)
Nov. 29	Chicago	8:20	8-8	296.8 (29)	324.1 (8)	17.5 (29)	18.6 (4)
Dec. 6	Philadelphia	4:25	9-7	360.8 (14)	331.7 (10)	24.1 (12)	22.1 (15)
Dec. 13	at Detroit	1:00	3-12-1	346.8 (17)	400.4 (31)	21.3 (t18)	26.4 (26)
Dec.19/20	Carolina	TBD	5-11	341.8 (19)	374.5 (23)	21.2 (20)	29.4 (31)
Dec. 27	Tennessee	8:20	9-7	362.8 (12)	359.5 (21)	25.1 (10)	20.7 (12)
Jan. 3	at Chicago	1:00	8-8	296.8 (29)	324.1 (8)	17.5 (29)	18.6 (4)

Peter Brouillet

Aaron Rodgers

QUARTERBACK


Davante Adams

David Stluka via AP

tying for the NFL lead in touchdowns (19) with Carolina's Christian McCaffrey. Much of LaFleur's offensive philosophy is predicated on running the ball effectively and marrying it with a successful downfield play-action game. A 1-2 punch of Jones, who is in the final year of his deal, and Dillon would surely make Rodgers' job easier.

At receiver, Gutekunst admitted he tried to trade up for the few wideouts he liked in the draft class but didn't have the requisite ammunition after trading up to take Love. That means that behind elite No. 1 receiver Davante Adams remains Allen Lazard, who began last season on the practice squad but ended it as the No. 2 wideout; Devin Funchess, who was added as a free agent; Marquez Valdes-Scantling, who disappeared during the second half of the year and played one snap in the NFC title game; and a handful of largely unproven players thereafter.

Having moved on from veteran tight end Jimmy Graham after two disappointing seasons, it's second-year man Jace Sternberger's job to lose there after not catching a single regular-season pass as a rookie. Meanwhile, the offensive line must replace decade-long starter Bryan Bulaga at right tackle, with Detroit Lions castoff Ricky Wagner penciled in there. But with franchise left tackle David Bakhtiari and reliable center Corey Linsley both in the last year of their deals, it could be the last hurrah for one of the league's top units.

DEFENSE The image of the San Francisco 49ers rushing for 285 yards in their NFC Championship Game win over the Packers — such a thoroughly dominant performance on the ground that quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo attempted only eight passes all game — won't soon be forgotten. Defensive coordinator Mike Pettine's crew had trouble stopping the run for most of the season, and other than swapping out inside linebacker Blake Martinez — who left for the New York Giants in free agency — for ex-Cleveland Browns tackling machine Christian Kirksey, very little changed personnel-wise on that side of the ball.

While nose tackle Kenny Clark is one of the league's best at the position, the Packers need better performances up front and more stout efforts from their pass-rushing edge stars Za'Darius Smith and Preston Smith. As good as those two were at getting after the quarterback, combining for 25.5 regular-season sacks, they'll have to set the edge better and get some help from 2019 first-round pick Rashan Gary, who barely played as the No. 12 overall pick as a rookie.

The defense's strength is in the back end, where cornerback Jaire Alexander is among the league's rising stars at the position. His running mate, Kevin King, finally stayed healthy and led the team in interceptions (five), while safeties Darnell Savage and Adrian Amos could make for a top-flight tandem with another year together.

SPECIALISTS Veteran kicker Mason Crosby bounced back from some costly 2018 misses with his best statistical season in 2019, making 91.7 percent of his field-goal attempts and earning a new three-year, $12.9 million deal. Given the kicker carousel their rivals have experienced, it was money well spent. Punter JK Scott and long-snapper Hunter Bradley, both drafted in 2018, improved in Year Two, but Scott's strong start gave way to inconsistency. He needs to be better. The late-season addition of Tyler Ervin off waivers energized a return game that was on life support, and Ervin could be a field-tilter for a special teams group that rarely generated big plays over the past decade or so.

FINAL ANALYSIS While it'd be unfair to call last season's 13–3 record (coming within one win of a Super Bowl berth) a mirage, there's no denying the Packers got every break imaginable and were blessed with unusually good health through LaFleur's first year. It's hard to imagine the football gods shining on them again to that degree. In fact, the 2020 outfit could be a better team than last year's — and yet finish with a worse record and check out of the playoffs earlier.

2019 RESULTS (13-3)

Sept.	**5**	at Chicago	W	10-3
Sept.	**15**	Minnesota	W	21-16
Sept.	**22**	Denver	W	27-16
Sept.	**26**	Philadelphia	L	27-34
Oct.	**6**	at Dallas	W	34-24
Oct.	**14**	Detroit	W	23-22
Oct.	**20**	Oakland	W	42-24
Oct.	**27**	at Kansas City	W	31-24
Nov.	**3**	at L.A. Chargers	L	11-26
Nov.	**10**	Carolina	W	24-16
Nov.	**24**	at San Francisco	L	8-37
Dec.	**1**	at N.Y. Giants	W	31-13
Dec.	**8**	Washington	W	20-15
Dec.	**15**	Chicago	W	21-13
Dec.	**23**	at Minnesota	W	23-10
Dec.	**29**	at Detroit	W	23-20
Postseason				
Jan.	**12**	Seattle	W	28-23
Jan.	**19**	at San Francisco	L	20-37

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Aaron Rodgers	569	353	4,002	26	4

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Aaron Jones	236	1,084	4.6	16
Jamaal Williams	107	460	4.3	1
Aaron Rodgers	46	183	4.0	1

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Davante Adams	83	997	12.0	5
Allen Lazard	35	477	13.6	3
Aaron Jones	49	474	9.7	3
M. Valdes-Scantling	26	452	17.4	2
Jimmy Graham	38	447	11.8	3
Geronimo Allison	34	287	8.4	2

KICKING: Mason Crosby, 22-24 FGs, 40-41 PAT, 106 points

TACKLES: Blake Martinez, 155; Adrian Amos, 84

SACKS: Za'Darius Smith, 13.5; Preston Smith, 12.0

INTERCEPTIONS: Kevin King, 5; four tied with 2

2019 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	345.5	18	11
Rushing	112.2	15	8
Passing	233.3	17	10
Scoring	23.5	15	10
Third Down %	37.6	19	11
Punt Returns	4.9	31	15
Kick Returns	20.8	25	12

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	352.6	18	9
Rushing	120.1	23	13
Passing	232.6	14	6
Scoring	19.6	9	4
Interceptions	17	T3	T1
Sacks	41	T15	9
Turnover Differential	+12	T3	T2

Scouting the Packers

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP GREEN BAY "It was a near-perfect start for first-year head coach Matt LaFleur — NFC North champs and a 13–3 record (before getting annihilated in the NFC Championship Game by the 49ers). QB Aaron Rodgers is still elite, but the Packers drafted his presumed replacement in the first round in Jordan Love. They also took rookie RB AJ Dillon with RB Aaron Jones entering the final year of his contract. ... Star WR Davante Adams is one of the best route runners in the NFL, and with the addition of 'bigger' WR Devin Funchess, this unit should improve this season. They released disappointing TE Jimmy Graham but re-signed veteran TE Marcedes Lewis with high expectations for second-year TE Jace Sternberger and rookie Josiah Deguara. ... They have an underrated LT in David Bakhtiari, a solid interior OL and they signed division rival RT Rick Wagner from the Lions. ... Defensive coordinator Mike Pettine had a top-10 defense with an athletic front four led by Kenny Clark, but they must get stouter vs. teams who can run the ball. This was one of the best edge units in the NFL last season with Za'Darius Smith and Preston Smith, who combined for 25.5 sacks, but last year's first-round pick, edge Rashan Gary, was disappointing. ... They need to find a leader at an ILB spot, and they signed veteran Christian Kirksey with expectations that Oren Burks or Ty Summers will be a reliable complement. ... CB Jaire Alexander is a rising superstar, and lengthy CB Kevin King stepped up last season, but they must keep adding quality depth to this unit. Expect a big jump from second-year safety Darnell Savage and veteran Adrian Amos. ... With the organization drafting Rodgers' replacement, it should light a fire for him to lead this team to the Super Bowl."

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS ⊕

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
WR	Devin Funchess	Indianapolis
ILB	Christian Kirksey	Cleveland
RT	Rick Wagner	Detroit

KEY LOSSES ⊖

POS.	PLAYER	2020 TEAM
OT	Bryan Bulaga	L.A. Chargers
ILB	Blake Martinez	N.Y. Giants
OLB	Kyler Fackrell	N.Y. Giants
TE	Jimmy Graham	Chicago
WR	Geronimo Allison	Detroit

Offseason Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR	17	Davante Adams	16	Jake Kumerow
WR	11	Devin Funchess	19	Equanimeous St. Brown
WR	13	Allen Lazard	83	Marquez Valdes-Scantling
LT	69	David Bakhtiari	73	Yosh Nijman
LG	74	Elgton Jenkins	65	Lane Taylor
C	63	Corey Linsley	67	Jake Hanson (R)
RG	77	Billy Turner	62	Lucas Patrick
RT	71	Rick Wagner	70	Alex Light
TE	87	Jace Sternberger	89	Marcedes Lewis
QB	12	Aaron Rodgers	10	Jordan Love (R)
RB	33	Aaron Jones	28	AJ Dillon (R)

DEFENSE

DE	94	Dean Lowry	96	Kingsley Keke
NT	97	Kenny Clark	95	Tyler Lancaster
DE	90	Montravius Adams	53	Jonathan Garvin (R)
OLB	55	Za'Darius Smith	52	Rashan Gary
ILB	42	Oren Burks	54	Kamal Martin (R)
ILB	58	Christian Kirksey	44	Ty Summers
OLB	91	Preston Smith	47	Tim Williams
CB	23	Jaire Alexander	37	Josh Jackson
CB	20	Kevin King	39	Chandon Sullivan
SS	31	Adrian Amos	24	Raven Greene
FS	26	Darnell Savage	25	Will Redmond

SPECIALISTS

K	2	Mason Crosby	KR	32	Tyler Ervin
P	6	JK Scott	PR	32	Tyler Ervin

2020 VETERAN PACKERS ROSTER

	QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
8	Boyle, Tim	QB	6-4	232	2	Eastern Kentucky	FA-18	FA-GB-18
12	Rodgers, Aaron	QB	6-2	225	15	California	D1-05	D1-GB-05
	RUNNING BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
34	Crockett, Damarea	RB	5-11	224	1	Missouri	FA-19	FA-Hou-19
32	Ervin, Tyler	RB	5-10	192	4	San Jose State	W-Jac-19	D4-Hou-16
33	Jones, Aaron	RB	5-9	208	3	UTEP	D5b-17	D5b-GB-17
46	Wellman, Elijah	FB	6-1	241	1	West Virginia	FA-20	FA-Was-18
22	Williams, Dexter	RB	5-11	212	1	Notre Dame	D6b-19	D6b-GB-19
30	Williams, Jamaal	RB	6-0	213	3	BYU	D4b-17	D4b-GB-17
	RECEIVERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
17	Adams, Davante	WR	6-1	215	6	Fresno State	D2-14	D2-GB-14
88	Baylis, Evan	TE	6-5	250	1	Oregon	FA-18	FA-Hou-17
11	Funchess, Devin	WR	6-4	225	5	Michigan	FA-Ind-20	D2-Car-15
16	Kumerow, Jake	WR	6-4	209	2	Wisc.-Whitewater	FA-17	FA-Cin-15
13	Lazard, Allen	WR	6-5	227	1	Iowa State	PS-Jac-18	FA-Jac-18
89	Lewis, Marcedes	TE	6-6	267	14	UCLA	FA-18	D1-Jac-06
49	Looney, James	TE	6-3	287	2	California	D7a-18	D7a-GB-18
10	Shepherd, Darrius	WR	5-11	186	1	North Dakota St.	FA-19	FA-GB-19
19	St. Brown, Equanimeous	WR	6-5	214	2	Notre Dame	D6-18	D6-GB-18
87	Sternberger, Jace	TE	6-4	251	1	Texas A&M	D3-19	D3-GB-19
86	Taylor, Malik	WR	6-3	220	1	Ferris State	FA-19	FA-TB-19
85	Tonyan, Robert	TE	6-5	237	2	Indiana State	FA-17	FA-Det-17
83	Valdes-Scantling, Marquez	WR	6-4	206	2	South Florida	D5c-18	D5c-GB-18
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
69	Bakhtiari, David	T	6-4	310	7	Colorado	D4a-13	D4a-GB-13
64	Conway, Cody	T	6-6	307	1	Syracuse	FA-19	FA-Ten-19
74	Jenkins, Elgton	G	6-5	311	1	Mississippi State	D2-19	D2-GB-19
79	Leglue, John	T	6-6	301	1	Tulane	PS-NO-19	FA-Den-19
70	Light, Alex	T/G	6-5	309	2	Richmond	FA-18	FA-GB-18
63	Linsley, Corey	C	6-3	301	6	Ohio State	D5a-14	D5a-GB-14
61	Madison, Cole	G	6-5	308	1	Washington State	D5a-18	D5a-GB-18
73	Nijman, Yosh	T	6-7	314	1	Virginia Tech	FA-19	FA-GB-19
62	Patrick, Lucas	G	6-3	313	3	Duke	FA-16	FA-GB-16
65	Taylor, Lane	G	6-3	324	7	Oklahoma State	FA-13	FA-GB-13
77	Turner, Billy	G/T	6-5	310	6	North Dakota St.	FA-Den-19	D3-Mia-14
71	Wagner, Rick	T	6-6	313	7	Wisconsin	FA-Det-20	D5-Bal-13
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
90	Adams, Montravius	DL	6-4	304	3	Auburn	D3-17	D3-GB-17
97	Clark, Kenny	DL	6-3	314	4	UCLA	D1-16	D1-GB-16
93	Hester, Treyvon	DL	6-2	304	3	Toledo	FA-Was-20	D7-LV-17
96	Keke, Kingsley	DL	6-3	288	1	Texas A&M	D5-19	D5-GB-19
95	Lancaster, Tyler	DL	6-3	313	2	Northwestern	FA-18	FA-GB-18
94	Lowry, Dean	DL	6-6	296	4	Northwestern	D4b-16	D4b-GB-16
	Willis, Gerald	DT	6-2	300	1	Miami	W-Mia-20	FA-Bal-19
	LINEBACKERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
40	Bolton, Curtis	LB	6-0	228	1	Oklahoma	FA-19	FA-GB-19
42	Burks, Oren	LB	6-3	233	2	Vanderbilt	D3-18	D3-GB-18
	Davis II, Jamal	LB	6-4	240	1	Akron	W-Mia-20	FA-Hou-19
52	Gary, Rashan	LB	6-5	277	1	Michigan	D1a-19	D1a-GB-19
58	Kirksey, Christian	LB	6-2	235	6	Iowa	FA-Cle-20	D3a-Cle-14
56	Ramsey, Randy	LB	6-3	238	1	Arkansas	FA-19	FA-GB-19
57	Roberts, Greg	LB	6-5	258	1	Baylor	FA-19	FA-GB-19
91	Smith, Preston	LB	6-5	265	5	Mississippi State	FA-Was-19	D2-Was-15
55	Smith, Za'Darius	LB	6-4	272	5	Kentucky	FA-Bal-19	D4a-Bal-15
44	Summers, Ty	LB	6-1	241	1	TCU	D7-19	D7-GB-19
47	Williams, Tim	LB	6-3	244	3	Alabama	W-Bal-19	D3b-Bal-17
	DEFENSIVE BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
23	Alexander, Jaire	CB	5-10	196	2	Louisville	D1-18	D1-GB-18
31	Amos, Adrian	S	6-0	214	5	Penn State	FA-Chi-19	D5-Chi-15
41	Amos, DaShaun	CB	6-0	190	1	East Carolina	FA-20	FA-NYG-17
48	Ento, Kabion	CB	6-1	187	1	Colorado	FA-19	FA-GB-19
24	Greene, Raven	S	5-11	197	2	James Madison	FA-18	FA-GB-18
29	Hollman, Ka'dar	CB	6-0	196	1	Toledo	D6a-19	D6a-GB-19
37	Jackson, Josh	CB	6-0	196	2	Iowa	D2-18	D2-GB-18
20	King, Kevin	CB	6-3	200	3	Washington	D2a-17	D2a-GB-17
25	Redmond, Will	S	5-11	186	4	Mississippi State	FA-18	D3-SF-16
26	Savage, Darnell	S	5-11	198	1	Maryland	D1b-19	D1b-GB-19
39	Sullivan, Chandon	CB	5-11	189	2	Georgia State	FA-19	FA-Phi-18
	SPECIALISTS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
43	Bradley, Hunter	LS	6-3	241	2	Mississippi State	D7b-18	D7b-GB-18
2	Crosby, Mason	K	6-1	207	13	Colorado	D6c-07	D6c-GB-07
6	Scott, JK	P	6-6	208	2	Alabama	D5b-18	D5b-GB-18

Utah State Athletics

Packers *in the Draft* | Grade: C-

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	**Jordan Love**	**QB**	**6-4**	**219**	**Utah State**
2.	AJ Dillon	RB	6-0	247	Boston College
3.	Josiah Deguara	TE	6-2	238	Cincinnati
5.	Kamal Martin	LB	6-3	240	Minnesota
6.	Jon Runyan	G/T	6-4	307	Michigan
6.	Jake Hanson	C	6-4	296	Oregon
6.	Simon Stepaniak	G	6-4	316	Indiana
7.	Vernon Scott	S	6-2	202	TCU
7.	Jonathan Garvin	DE	6-4	257	Miami (Fla.)

While the post-draft focus was on the selection of Jordan Love as Rodgers' heir apparent, the biggest issue was what the Packers didn't do: draft a wide receiver. In what was billed as the greatest draft in league history at the position, the Packers managed to make nine selections and not add a single one — despite Brian Gutekunst's February acknowledgment that the position needed an infusion of talent. The addition of AJ Dillon made sense with Aaron Jones and backup Jamaal Williams both in the last year of their deals. The three linemen should replenish depth up front, but the most intriguing pick was Josiah Deguara, a versatile chess piece who can play tight end, fullback, H-back and slot receiver — making him a player Matt LaFleur can't wait to get creative with.

Outside the Huddle

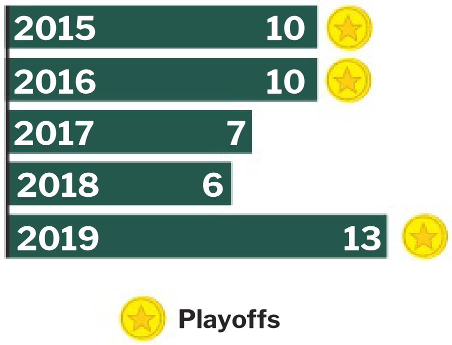
FOCUSED ON 49ERS After their season-ending loss, there was some debate among the team's leaders as to whether the gap between San Francisco and Green Bay was vast. Aaron Rodgers didn't think the gap was insurmountable. Matt LaFleur and Brian Gutekunst seemed to think it was large. "I think it was evident in the two games we played that we have a lot of work to do if we want to be on that level," Gutekunst acknowledged. "At the same time, they were No. 1 and we were No. 2 in the NFC. Every year's different. There will be new challenges next year, whether it's them or somebody else. My thought process on that is we're constantly working to be as good as we can be. We know there's a lot of areas we can get better in. That's what we're looking to do."

SOMETHING TO PROVE Perhaps the most troublesome aspect of that 37–20 loss to the 49ers was the Super Bowl week admission by Za'Darius Smith that the players — himself included — didn't play with effort despite a berth in the Super Bowl hanging in the balance. LaFleur had sensed what he called an "extremely bothersome" lack of intensity, and Smith admitted the coach was right. "We didn't come ready to play," Smith said. "I don't know if everybody was sleeping, but I can tell you I wasn't ready to play either. Coming in the night before, we weren't ready to play football."

AT THE READY? Among Gutekunst's assertions about the challenges that rookie pass-catchers face in their NFL debut seasons was that the positions don't lend themselves to immediate impacts. And the Packers' own history supports that, with top receivers like Greg Jennings, Jordy Nelson, Randall Cobb and Adams struggling to make consistent contributions as rookies. With a disjointed offseason, though, that might be true for the entire draft class, which includes more than a few down-the-road prospects, starting with Love. "I'm not going to put any kind of limitations on their ability to contribute this year. I can understand with the quarterback that that's probably true. As far as the running back and the tight end, I think there's ample opportunity for those guys to contribute this year," Gutekunst says of Dillon and third-round tight end selection Josiah Deguara.

TB12 = AR12? Rodgers and Tom Brady have faced each other as starters only twice, both times in the regular season: a 2014 matchup at Lambeau Field and a 2018 meeting at Gillette Stadium. This year, the Packers and Brady's Tampa Bay Buccaneers face off at Raymond James Stadium. To hear Brady tell it, he and Rodgers have become closer friends in recent years as they each battle Father Time. "There's just some unique things (about our friendship)," Brady says. "Outside of the guys on my own team or guys I played with, the guys I probably relate to the most would probably be other quarterbacks. And just again with Aaron's own career longevity and his performance … I think there's a lot of things we have in common. So it's great to talk about those things. There's probably not many people that I've had a chance to talk to that go through a lot of similar experiences that I do. And he's probably one of those guys."

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



NUMBERS TO KNOW

59.7

Packers opponents completed just 59.7 percent of their passes, third lowest in the NFL.

7.1

Green Bay turned the ball over on only 7.1 percent of its offensive possessions, the second-lowest rate in the NFL.

3

Aaron Rodgers has been below average against his expected completion percentage each of the last three seasons per NFL Next Gen Stats.

Minnesota
VIKINGS

NFC North Forecast: 1

THE ORGANIZATION

Owner/Chairman: Zygi Wilf
Owner/President: Mark Wilf
Owner/Vice Chairman: Leonard Wilf
Executive VP of Football Operations: Rob Brzezinski
General Manager: Rick Spielman
Stadium: U.S. Bank Stadium (66,200)
Surface: Artificial Turf
Website: www.vikings.com
Tickets: 612-33-VIKES (84537)
Training Camp: Twin Cities Orthopedics Performance Center (Eagan, Minn.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Mike Zimmer
Record With Team: 57-38-1
Career Record: 57-38-1
Offensive Coordinator: Gary Kubiak
Co-Defensive Coordinator/Defensive Line: Andre Patterson
Co-Defensive Coordinator/Linebackers: Adam Zimmer
Special Teams Coordinator: Marwan Maalouf
Quarterbacks: Klint Kubiak
Running Backs: Kennedy Polamalu
Wide Receivers: Andrew Janocko
Tight Ends: Brian Pariani
Offensive Line/Run Game Coordinator: Rick Dennison
Defensive Backs: Daronte Jones

General manager Rick Spielman has called the widespread replenishing of this year's roster a natural "evolution" that shouldn't deter head coach Mike Zimmer from reaching the playoffs for the fourth time in seven years and the first time in back-to-back seasons. We'll see.

Eight contributors to last year's fifth-ranked scoring defense are gone, including the top three corners, half the starting line and the No. 3 end. Offensively, as many as nine starters from the eighth-ranked scoring offense could return. But both guard spots are wide open, while disgruntled — and productive — star receiver Stefon Diggs has been traded to Buffalo in a move quarterback Kirk Cousins called a "win-win." Spielman came out of the draft with 15 players, including two first-round picks that produced Diggs' immediate replacement, Justin Jefferson, and a desperately needed cornerback in Jeff Gladney.

"We're not going to cry because we don't have some of those veterans we had," Zimmer says. The Vikings have enough talent and youthful potential to make the playoffs. But there's no room for error considering the league-wide COVID-19 shutdown will have robbed most of the on-field training for key youngsters in this roster "evolution."

OFFENSE Last year's coordinator, Kevin Stefanski, is now the head coach in Cleveland. But the system returns intact and in sync with Zimmer's run-oriented team principles. Gary Kubiak, the Super Bowl-winning coach who mentored Stefanski in his old-school philosophies, moves into the play-calling chair after a year as a consultant. His longtime cohort, Rick Dennison, returns as line coach after getting last year's front to overachieve in Year One of the outside zone run game.

Dennison must identify two starting guards out of what Spielman says will be an "open competition" among unproven young players and disappointing left guard incumbent Pat Elflein. Second-round draft pick Ezra Cleveland is the left tackle of the future but might need more strength before unseating Riley Reiff, who regressed last year. Right tackle is manned by 2018 second-round pick Brian O'Neill, a rising star with impressive athleticism and a nasty side. Center Garrett Bradbury, last year's first-round pick, had a decent rookie season but needs to do a better job holding his ground in the passing game.

Running back Dalvin Cook is a superb dual threat when healthy. Unfortunately, he has missed 19 of 48 games as a pro. Ideally, Kubiak would like to build the offense on top of a foundation that features Cook in the outside zone run scheme and screen game. Cook's vision, quickness, speed and deceptive power make him tough to defend.

If Cook gets on track, Cousins becomes more effective with the kind of arm strength and deep-ball accuracy that make him so good in the play-action game. Where Cousins falls short as a franchise quarterback is his ability to make something out of nothing.

At receiver, the Vikings will miss Diggs' talent but not his attitude. Cousins says "it wasn't a mystery" that Diggs wanted to play elsewhere, adding, "I think it was smart of the Vikings to grant him that opportunity." With the first of four draft picks they received from Buffalo, the Vikings took Jefferson, a polished route runner who clocked a 4.43 at the combine and is coming off a 111-catch season for the undefeated national champs. He'll start immediately along with veteran Adam Thielen, who is trying to return to his 2018 form — 113 catches, 1,373 yards, nine touchdowns — after an injury-marred season. The Vikings also signed Tajaé Sharpe, who had four non-

2020 SCHEDULE

2019 NFL RANKINGS

Date	Opponent	Time	2019 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 13	Green Bay	1:00	13-3	345.5 (18)	352.6 (18)	23.5 (15)	19.6 (9)
Sept. 20	at Indianapolis	1:00	7-9	327.4 (25)	346.8 (16)	22.6 (t16)	23.3 (18)
Sept. 27	Tennessee	1:00	9-7	362.8 (12)	359.5 (21)	25.1 (10)	20.7 (12)
Oct. 4	at Houston	1:00	10-6	362.0 (13)	388.3 (28)	23.6 (14)	24.1 (19)
Oct. 11	at Seattle	8:20	11-5	374.4 (8)	381.6 (26)	25.3 (9)	24.9 (22)
Oct. 18	Atlanta	1:00	7-9	379.7 (5)	355.8 (20)	23.8 (13)	24.9 (23)
BYE							
Nov. 1	at Green Bay	1:00	13-3	345.5 (18)	352.6 (18)	23.5 (15)	19.6 (9)
Nov. 8	Detroit	1:00	3-12-1	346.8 (17)	400.4 (31)	21.3 (t18)	26.4 (26)
Nov. 16	at Chicago (Mon.)	8:15	8-8	296.8 (29)	324.1 (8)	17.5 (29)	18.6 (4)
Nov. 22	Dallas	4:25	8-8	431.5 (1)	327.0 (9)	27.1 (6)	20.1 (11)
Nov. 29	Carolina	1:00	5-11	341.8 (19)	374.5 (23)	21.2 (20)	29.4 (31)
Dec. 6	Jacksonville	1:00	6-10	341.8 (20)	375.4 (24)	18.8 (26)	24.8 (21)
Dec. 13	at Tampa Bay	1:00	7-9	397.9 (3)	343.9 (15)	28.6 (t3)	28.1 (29)
Dec. 20	Chicago	1:00	8-8	296.8 (29)	324.1 (8)	17.5 (29)	18.6 (4)
Dec. 25	at New Orleans (Fri.)	4:30	13-3	373.9 (9)	333.1 (11)	28.6 (t3)	21.3 (13)
Jan. 3	at Detroit	1:00	3-12-1	346.8 (17)	400.4 (31)	21.3 (t18)	26.4 (26)

Dalvin Cook

RUNNING BACK

2019 RESULTS (10-6)

Sept.	8	Atlanta	W	28-12
Sept.	15	at Green Bay	L	16-21
Sept.	22	Oakland	W	34-14
Sept.	29	at Chicago	L	6-16
Oct.	6	at N.Y. Giants	W	28-10
Oct.	13	Philadelphia	W	38-20
Oct.	20	at Detroit	W	42-30
Oct.	24	Washington	W	19-9
Nov.	3	at Kansas City	L	23-26
Nov.	10	at Dallas	W	28-24
Nov.	17	Denver	W	27-23
Dec.	2	at Seattle	L	30-37
Dec.	8	Detroit	W	20-7
Dec.	15	at L.A. Chargers	W	39-10
Dec.	23	Green Bay	L	10-23
Dec.	29	Chicago	L	19-21
Postseason				
Jan.	5	at New Orleans	W	26-20
Jan.	11	at San Francisco	L	10-27

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Kirk Cousins	444	307	3,603	26	6

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Dalvin Cook	250	1,135	4.5	13
Alexander Mattison	100	462	4.6	1
Mike Boone	49	273	5.6	3

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Stefon Diggs	63	1,130	17.9	6
Dalvin Cook	53	519	9.8	0
Adam Thielen	30	418	13.9	6
Kyle Rudolph	39	367	9.4	6
Irv Smith	36	311	8.6	2
Bisi Johnson	31	294	9.5	3

KICKING: Dan Bailey, 27-29 FGs, 40-44 PAT, 121 points

TACKLES: Eric Kendricks, 110; Harrison Smith, 85

SACKS: Danielle Hunter, 14.5; Everson Griffen, 8.0

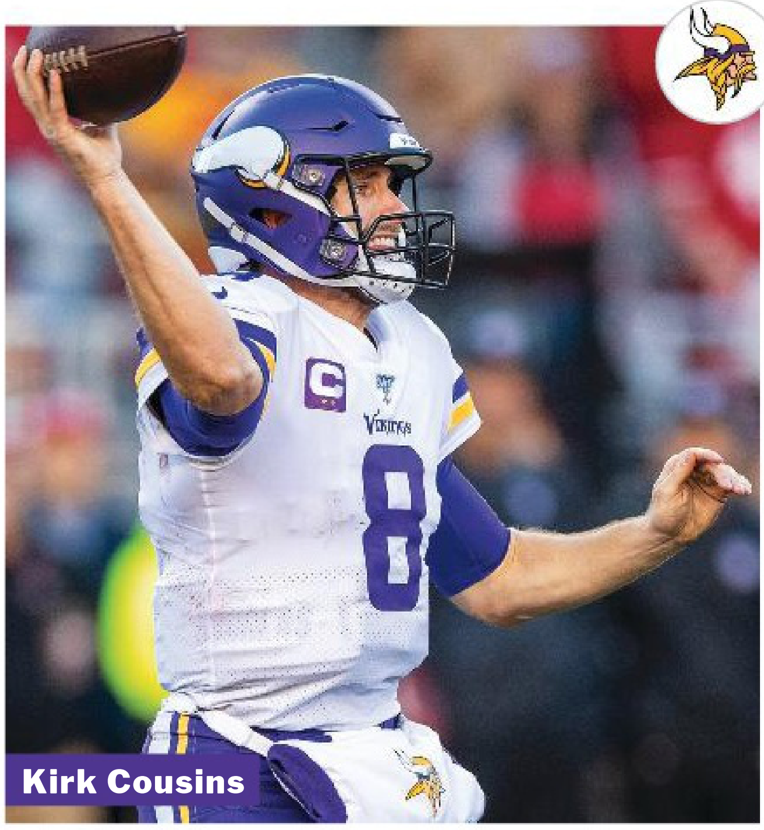
INTERCEPTIONS: Anthony Harris, 6; Harrison Smith, 3

2019 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	353.5	16	9
Rushing	133.3	6	4
Passing	220.2	23	13
Scoring	25.4	8	5
Third Down %	42.4	9	4
Punt Returns	6.8	T20	T8
Kick Returns	22.4	T15	9

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	341.6	14	7
Rushing	108.0	13	6
Passing	233.6	15	7
Scoring	18.9	T5	2
Interceptions	17	T3	T1
Sacks	48	T5	T4
Turnover Differential	+11	5	4

Cook, Cousins: Peter Brouillet



Kirk Cousins

descript years in Tennessee. Under Kubiak, the Vikings will run fewer three-receiver sets than most teams. He'll use more heavy sets with fullback C.J. Ham and tight ends Kyle Rudolph and Irv Smith Jr., who has breakout potential.

DEFENSE Getting rid of coordinator George Edwards after six years will have no impact on a defense that has always been Zimmer's to organize and call. Adam Zimmer, the coach's son and linebackers coach, will work with respected line coach Andre Patterson as co-coordinators. They'll work well together. One interesting twist this year is the hiring of Dom Capers as a consultant. The longtime 3-4 proponent is working with Zimmer, a career-long 4-3 guy, on ways to add some fresh wrinkles and hybrid game plans.

One player who might benefit most from Capers' impact is Anthony Barr, an outside linebacker with 3-4 size, skills and playmaking potential that has gone largely untapped during a steady but unspectacular career. Former Raven Michael Pierce, the team's prized free agent acquisition, is strong enough to play nose in either front. He replaces Linval Joseph, who was an immovable force and run-stopping linchpin before injuries mounted. Left end Danielle Hunter, a rising superstar with 54.5 sacks at 25, could dominate at an All-Pro level in any system. The next chapter in Ifeadi Odenigbo's rags-to-riches story could be replacing right end Everson Griffen, the 10-year Viking who moved on. Odenigbo was cut three times by three teams, including the Vikings, before returning to Minnesota and notching seven sacks last year. If his skills can't transfer outside consistently, another option is D.J. Wonnum, a rookie fourth-rounder.

Eric Kendricks was the best middle linebacker in football last year. He'll get only better because his legs are still young enough at 28 to take him where his vision, instincts and film study have already told him to go.

Mike Hughes, the 2018 first-round draft pick, will be the top corner after the losses of Xavier Rhodes, Trae Waynes and Mackensie Alexander. Hughes is up to the task when healthy, but he's often injured. First-round draft pick Jeff Gladney should work his way into the No. 2 corner position. He has the press-coverage physicality and toughness Zimmer desires. Holton Hill, a big corner whose character issues cost the team two four-game suspensions last year, has the skills to be one of the top three corners. But look out for rookie Cameron Dantzler, who stands 6'2" with long arms and sound tackling skills.

Harrison Smith and Anthony Harris are two of the league's best safeties. Smith is Zimmer's favorite game-planning tool, while Harris' instincts and ball skills led him to a league-high six interceptions last year. The depth behind them coming out of the draft consisted of rookies Josh Metellus, a sixth-rounder from Michigan, and Brian Cole II, a seventh-rounder from Mississippi State. Cornerback Harrison Hand, a fifth-rounder from Temple, also has the versatility to play safety.

SPECIALISTS A year after their kicker, holder/punter and snapper positions were in question, all is well with kicker Dan Bailey, holder/punter Britton Colquitt and long snapper Austin Cutting. Working together last year, that unit made 27-of-29 field-goal attempts. Colquitt brought much-needed experience and a sense of calm to the operation. The coverage units are led by linebacker Eric Wilson and cornerback Kris Boyd. Keep an eye on rookie fifth-round draft pick K.J. Osborn. He was drafted as a returner. Incumbent kick returner Ameer Abdullah is average, while punt returner is vacant.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Vikings took a step backward in terms of experienced talent but have enough grizzled firepower and quality youth to earn a wild-card berth and push the Packers in the NFC North. The offensive line is lacking overall and needs to keep improving after overachieving in its first year under Dennison. The season hinges on that because Cousins isn't good enough to offset poor line play. Defensively, there's enough talent left over from the offseason exodus, but the unit's success hinges on Spielman nailing the draft and Zimmer getting his youngsters up to speed quickly.

2020 VETERAN VIKINGS ROSTER

	QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
3	Browning, Jake	QB	6-2	210	1	Washington	FA-19	FA-Min-19
8	Cousins, Kirk	QB	6-3	202	8	Michigan State	FA-Was-18	D4a-Was-12
4	Mannion, Sean	QB	6-6	230	5	Oregon State	FA-LAR-19	D3b-LAR-15

	RUNNING BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
31	Abdullah, Ameer	RB	5-9	203	5	Nebraska	W-Det-18	D2-Det-15
23	Boone, Mike	RB	5-10	206	2	Cincinnati	FA-18	FA-Min-18
35	Brooks-James, Tony	RB	5-9	179	1	Oregon	FA-19	FA-Atl-19
33	Cook, Dalvin	RB	5-10	210	3	Florida State	D2-17	D2-Min-17
30	Ham, C.J.	FB	5-11	235	3	Augustana	FA-16	FA-Min-16
25	Mattison, Alexander	RB	5-11	220	1	Boise State	D3-19	D3-Min-19

	RECEIVERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
89	Addison, Bralon	WR	5-9	197	1	Oregon	FA-20	FA-Den-16
12	Beebe, Chad	WR	5-10	183	2	Northern Illinois	FA-18	FA-Min-18
83	Conklin, Tyler	TE	6-3	254	2	Central Michigan	D5a-18	D5a-Min-18
16	Davis, Davion	WR	5-11	195	1	Sam Houston St.	FA-19	FA-Min-19
86	Dillon, Brandon	TE	6-5	250	1	Marian	FA-19	FA-Min-19
15	Hollins, Alexander	WR	6-1	166	1	Eastern Illinois	FA-19	FA-Min-19
81	Johnson, Bisi	WR	6-0	204	1	Colorado State	D7c-19	D7c-Min-19
17	Mitchell, Dillon	WR	6-1	202	1	Oregon	D7b-19	D7b-Min-19
82	Rudolph, Kyle	TE	6-6	265	9	Notre Dame	D2-11	D2-Min-11
11	Sharpe, Tajaé	WR	6-2	194	4	Massachusetts	FA-Ten-20	D5a-Ten-16
84	Smith Jr., Irv	TE	6-2	242	1	Alabama	D2-19	D2-Min-19
19	Thielen, Adam	WR	6-2	200	6	Minnesota State	FA-13	FA-Min-13

	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
56	Bradbury, Garrett	C	6-3	305	1	NC State	D1-19	D1-Min-19
76	Collins, Aviante	T	6-4	292	3	TCU	FA-17	FA-Min-17
78	Dozier, Dakota	G	6-4	312	6	Furman	FA-NYJ-19	D4c-NYJ-14
65	Elflein, Pat	G	6-3	303	3	Ohio State	D3-17	D3-Min-17
69	Hill, Rashod	T	6-6	313	4	Southern Miss	PS-Jac-16	FA-Jac-16
61	Jones, Brett	C	6-2	315	5	Regina	T-NYG-18	FA-NYG-15
64	Kline, Josh	G	6-3	300	7	Kent State	FA-Ten-19	FA-NE-13
75	O'Neill, Brian	T	6-7	297	2	Pittsburgh	D2-18	D2-Min-18
71	Reiff, Riley	T	6-6	305	8	Iowa	FA-Det-17	D1-Det-12
73	Samia, Dru	G	6-5	308	1	Oklahoma	D4-19	D4-Min-19
74	Udoh, Olisaemeka	T	6-6	325	1	Elon	D6c-19	D6c-Min-19

	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
92	Holmes, Jalyn	DT	6-5	283	2	Ohio State	D4-18	D4-Min-18
99	Hunter, Danielle	DE	6-5	252	5	LSU	D3-15	D3-Min-15
94	Johnson, Jaleel	DT	6-3	316	3	Iowa	D4a-17	D4a-Min-17
90	Keely, Stacy	DE	6-6	220	1	UAB	FA-19	FA-Min-19
51	Mata'afa, Hercules	DT	6-2	254	2	Washington State	FA-18	FA-Min-18
95	Odenigbo, Ifeadi	DE	6-3	258	2	Northwestern	FA-18	D7b-Min-17
98	Pierce, Michael	DT	6-0	345	4	Samford	FA-Bal-20	FA-Bal-16
93	Stephen, Shamar	DT	6-5	309	6	Connecticut	FA-Sea-19	D7a-Min-14
96	Watts, Armon	DT	6-5	295	1	Arkansas	D6a-19	D6a-Min-19
52	Yarbrough, Eddie	DE	6-3	259	3	Wyoming	PS-Buf-19	FA-Buf-17
92	Zettel, Anthony	DE	6-4	275	4	Penn State	FA-SF-20	D6-Det-16

	LINEBACKERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
55	Barr, Anthony	LB	6-5	255	6	UCLA	D1a-14	D1a-Min-14
47	Gates, DeMarquis	LB	6-2	230	1	Ole Miss	FA-20	FA-Cle-18
42	Gedeon, Ben	LB	6-2	244	3	Michigan	D4b-17	D4b-Min-17
54	Kendricks, Eric	LB	6-0	232	5	UCLA	D2-15	D2-Min-15
59	Smith, Cameron	LB	6-2	235	1	USC	D5-19	D5-Min-19
50	Wilson, Eric	LB	6-1	230	3	Cincinnati	FA-17	FA-Min-17

	DEFENSIVE BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
38	Boyd, Kris	CB	5-11	200	1	Texas	D7a-19	D7a-Min-19
32	Fields, Mark	CB	5-10	180	1	Clemson	T-KC-19	FA-KC-19
37	Hall, Kemon	CB	5-11	190	1	North Texas	FA-19	FA-LAC-19
41	Harris, Anthony	S	6-1	202	5	Virginia	FA-15	FA-Min-15
24	Hill, Holton	CB	6-2	196	2	Texas	FA-18	FA-Min-18
21	Hughes, Mike	CB	5-10	189	2	UCF	D1-18	D1-Min-18
44	Meadors, Nate	CB	5-11	194	1	UCLA	FA-19	FA-Min-19
36	Sayles, Marcus	CB	5-10	175	1	West Georgia	FA-20	FA-Buf-17
22	Smith, Harrison	S	6-2	214	8	Notre Dame	D1b-12	D1b-Min-12

	SPECIALISTS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
5	Bailey, Dan	K	6-0	190	9	Oklahoma State	FA-18	FA-Dal-11
2	Colquitt, Britton	P	6-3	210	10	Tennessee	FA-19	FA-Den-09
58	Cutting, Austin	LS	6-3	245	1	Air Force	D7d-19	D7d-Min-19

Scouting the Vikings

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP MINNESOTA "Kirk Cousins got paid top-five QB money but hasn't played up to that level. … Dalvin Cook is finally becoming the star RB he was in college, and the Vikings finished sixth in rushing last season. … They had arguably the best WR duo in the NFL with Adam Thielen and Stefon Diggs but traded the latter to Buffalo and drafted dependable WR Justin Jefferson to be his replacement. … The defense moved on from longtime DE Everson Griffen, DT Linval Joseph and former All-Pro CB Xavier Rhodes, who had the biggest decline of any player in the NFL. … DE Danielle Hunter is one of the best pass rushers in the NFL, and the team hopes Ifeadi Odenigbo (seven sacks) can step into a starting role after being a role player last season. … This is a top-three ILB unit with All-Pro Eric Kendricks and Anthony Barr. … CBs Trae Waynes and Mackensie Alexander departed in free agency, so expect CB Mike Hughes and first-round pick Jeff Gladney to be their Day One starters. The unsung hero of this defense is Harrison Smith, who is one of the smartest, toughest and most instinctive safeties in the NFL. … The Vikings are talented, but their ability to take the next step will depend solely on the consistency of Cousins."

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
LB	DeMarquis Gates	XFL-Houston
NT	Michael Pierce	Baltimore
WR	Tajaé Sharpe	Tennessee

KEY LOSSES -

POS.	PLAYER	2020 TEAM
CB	Mackensie Alexander	Cincinnati
WR	Stefon Diggs	Buffalo
NT	Linval Joseph	L.A. Chargers
S	Jayron Kearse	Detroit
RG	Josh Kline	Free Agent
TE	David Morgan	Free Agent
DE	Everson Griffen	Free Agent
CB	Xavier Rhodes	Indianapolis
S	Andrew Sendejo	Cleveland
WR	Laquon Treadwell	Atlanta
CB	Trae Waynes	Cincinnati
DE	Stephen Weatherly	Carolina

Offseason Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR	19	Adam Thielen	81	Bisi Johnson
WR	18	Justin Jefferson (R)	11	Tajaé Sharpe
LT	71	Riley Reiff	72	Ezra Cleveland (R)
LG	65	Pat Elflein	78	Dakota Dozier
C	56	Garrett Bradbury	61	Brett Jones
RG	73	Dru Samia	76	Aviante Collins
RT	75	Brian O'Neill	69	Rashod Hill
TE	82	Kyle Rudolph	84	Irv Smith Jr.
QB	8	Kirk Cousins	4	Sean Mannion
RB	33	Dalvin Cook	25	Alexander Mattison
FB	30	C.J. Ham		

DEFENSE

DE	95	Ifeadi Odenigbo	57	D.J. Wonnum (R)
DT	93	Shamar Stephen	66	James Lynch (R)
NT	98	Michael Pierce	94	Jaleel Johnson
DE	99	Danielle Hunter	79	Kenny Willekes (R)
WLB	42	Ben Gedeon	50	Eric Wilson
MLB	54	Eric Kendricks	59	Cameron Smith
SLB	55	Anthony Barr	45	Troy Dye (R)
CB	21	Mike Hughes	29	Kris Boyd
CB	20	Jeff Gladney (R)	24	Holton Hill
SS	41	Anthony Harris	39	Brian Cole II (R)
FS	22	Harrison Smith	44	Josh Metellus (R)

SPECIALISTS

K	5	Dan Bailey	KR	31	Ameer Abdullah
P	2	Britton Colquitt	PR	17	K.J. Osborn (R)

Kevin Langley/CSM via AP

Vikings *in the Draft* | Grade: A

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	**Justin Jefferson**	**WR**	**6-1**	**202**	**LSU**
1.	Jeff Gladney	CB	5-10	191	Texas Christian
2.	Ezra Cleveland	OT	6-6	311	Boise State
3.	Cameron Dantzler	CB	6-2	188	Mississippi State
4.	D.J. Wonnum	DE	6-5	258	South Carolina
4.	James Lynch	DT	6-4	289	Baylor
4.	Troy Dye	LB	6-3	231	Oregon
5.	Harrison Hand	DB	5-11	197	Temple
5.	K.J. Osborn	WR	5-11	203	Miami (Fla.)
6.	Blake Brandel	OT	6-7	307	Oregon State
6.	Josh Metellus	S	5-11	209	Michigan
7.	Kenny Willekes	DE	6-3	264	Michigan State
7.	Nate Stanley	QB	6-4	235	Iowa
7.	Brian Cole II	S	6-2	213	Mississippi State
7.	Kyle Hinton	G	6-2	295	Washburn

GM Rick Spielman needed to replace Stefon Diggs, replenish the secondary and find a left tackle of the future. He did that and more while making four trades to turn 12 picks into 15 this year and two more next year. Justin Jefferson is fast and polished and will start right away. Jeff Gladney becomes one of the top three cornerbacks on a defense that lost its top three. Ezra Cleveland could supplant Riley Reiff as early as this season.

Outside the Huddle

GRAND GESTURE All-Pro Eric Kendricks turned his passion for painting into a fundraising tool during the COVID-19 pandemic. Each painting cost $1,000. Kendricks donated all proceeds plus another $1,000 per painting to food banks. "Let's help each other, give back, stay home, and wash our damn hands! All love!" Kendricks wrote on Instagram.

OLYMPIC DREAMS New nose tackle Michael Pierce, a huge fan of the World's Strongest Man competition, has videos online of him squatting 725 pounds. "I'm at least in the top 10 strongest guys in the NFL," he says. If it weren't for his day job, Pierce says he'd be on the U.S. Olympic weightlifting team.

DRAFT DAZE The NFL's first all-virtual draft didn't deter GM Rick Spielman from making four trades to turn 12 picks into 17, including two next year. The 15 players selected this year set an NFL record for a seven-round draft. Spielman called the Vikings' IT department staffers the "MVPs" of the draft.

MOST VALUABLE EMPLOYEES In preparing for the all-virtual draft, the NFL deemed only IT department personnel as essential employees who could enter team facilities closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Vikings' IT people used that ruling to give Spielman some good-natured ribbing. On the eve of the draft, the IT staffers wore t-shirts that said, "I'm an essential employee." They also made Spielman a t-shirt. "I'm sitting there in this big black t-shirt with white letters," he says. "It said, 'Non-Essential.'"

CAP FRIENDLY Two years into a fully guaranteed three-year, $84 million deal, quarterback Kirk Cousins got a two-year, $66 million extension that shaved $9.5 million of his salary cap number for this season. Cousins says he hopes to earn the right to stay in Minnesota beyond that: "I do know that whoever the quarterback is that delivers a world championship to the Minnesota Vikings is going to be welcome in the state of Minnesota for the rest of their lives."

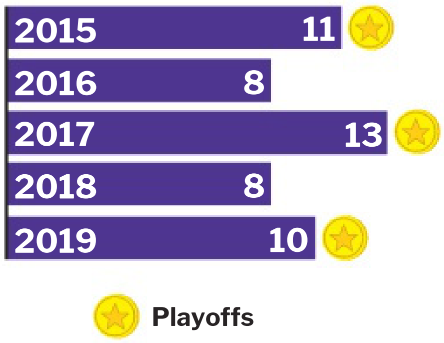
ADVICE FOR GREEN BAY Head coach Mike Zimmer was asked after the first round of the draft for his reaction to the Packers taking quarterback Jordan Love. "I think [Aaron] Rodgers should retire," Zimmer said.

HIGH SCHOOL SLEEPER First-round draft pick Justin Jefferson was lightly recruited out of high school. He got the last scholarship available in his LSU class. "I was very small," says the 6'1", 202-pounder with the 4.43 speed. "Undersized, lightly recruited, the whole thing. I definitely didn't think that this would be coming."

WHO NEEDS THE BELLAGIO? First-round draft pick Jeff Gladney was OK without the glitz and glitter that would have come with the NFL Draft had it been staged in Las Vegas. "I was home, out in the country," he says. "Had a little barbecue, fish fry. Made the best of it."

OFFICER OSBORN Fifth-round draft pick K.J. Osborn, a receiver from Miami (Fla.) who could help immediately as a kick returner, says he'd like to one day work for the FBI or the Secret Service. "Growing up, I liked to watch 'The First 48' and all those crime shows," he says. "I like to take risks, want to go in there and save lives."

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



NUMBERS TO KNOW

17.0

The Vikings forced a turnover on 17.0 percent of their opponents' possessions, the third-highest rate in the NFL behind the Steelers and Patriots.

3.01

Kirk Cousins' average time to throw (3.01 secs.) was the highest of any QB with more than 128 attempts per NFL Next Gen Stats.

43.8

Minnesota's defense allowed a TD on 43.8 percent of red zone possessions, the second-lowest rate in the league.

Atlanta
FALCONS

NFC South Forecast: 3

THE ORGANIZATION

Owner/Chairman: Arthur Blank
President/CEO: Rich McKay
General Manager: Thomas Dimitroff
Director of Football Operations: Nick Polk
Stadium: Mercedes-Benz Stadium (71,000)
Surface: FieldTurf
Website: www.atlantafalcons.com
Tickets: 470-341-4500
Training Camp: Atlanta Falcons Training Facility (Flowery Branch, Ga.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Dan Quinn
Record With Team: 43-37
Career Record: 43-37
Offensive Coordinator: Dirk Koetter
Defensive Coordinator: Raheem Morris
Special Teams Coordinator: Ben Kotwica
Quarterbacks: Greg Knapp
Running Backs: Bernie Parmalee
Wide Receivers: Dave Brock
Tight Ends: Ben Steele
Offensive Line: Chris Morgan
Defensive Line/Defensive Ends/Run Game Coordinator: Josh Lupoi
Defensive Line/Defensive Tackles: Jess Simpson
Assistant Head Coach/Linebackers: Jeff Ulbrich
Secondary/Defensive Passing Game Coordinator: Joe Whitt Jr.
Senior Defensive Assistant: Doug Mallory

The hopes were high for the Atlanta Falcons heading into the 2019 season. After a skid driven by injuries and questionable coaching in 2018, the team reverted to Dirk Koetter as its offensive coordinator and let head coach Dan Quinn call the shots on defense. It didn't work. Rather than rejuvenate the play calling, the Falcons cratered to a 1–7 record just before Halloween and looked like the worst Falcons team since 2007, the year before people like general manager Thomas Dimitroff and quarterback Matt Ryan were even in Atlanta.

But then something changed. The team stunned division rival New Orleans on the road and fired off a 6–2 finish, leaving everyone a bit taken aback. Quinn and Dimitroff went from being on the hottest of seats to being firmly in charge of the Falcons for the 2020 season. The team that played in the last half didn't look anything like the one that started the year. Which team will show up this fall?

OFFENSE The Falcons offense in 2019 was a bit hard to decipher. They started the season barely able to drive down the field in Week 1 and entered the bye week averaging 20.6 points per game, scoring many of their points in garbage time and shootouts. After the bye week, the team averaged 27.0 points per game.

Ryan is coming off another great season on paper (4,466 yards, 26 touchdowns, 66.2 percent completion rate) and should be the starter in Atlanta for the next few years, at the least. He's flanked by perhaps the best wide receiver in football in Julio Jones, who is still in his prime and coming off a 1,394-yard, six-touchdown season. Former first-round receiver Calvin Ridley adds a powerful counter for Jones and should be just now beginning to tap into his sky-high potential. Russell Gage showed well as a second receiver when Ridley went down with injury late last season. That trio will be formidable going forward.

The Falcons are taking a flier on former Vikings WR Laquon Treadwell to compete for a reserve role and could see younger players like former UDFAs Olamide Zaccheaus and Christian Blake vie for spots in the rotation as well.

At tight end, the team is leaning on 2020 trade acquisition Hayden Hurst out of Baltimore, who fell behind on a rigorous depth chart but has oodles of potential. Jaeden Graham and Vanderbilt 2020 UDFA Jared Pinkney are the best options right now behind Hurst. Additional moves could be made there to help soften the loss of departed TE Austin Hooper (now with the Cleveland Browns).

The Falcons made a smart gamble on released Rams RB Todd Gurley II, a Georgia legend and Peachtree Street favorite. A former MVP candidate, Gurley has an arthritic knee that may limit his snaps and prevent him from fully being the guy who torched defenses to start his career. He averaged roughly 135 yards from scrimmage per game in 2017-18, but that number plummeted to 70 yards per game in 2019. But he's only 26 and should still be considered a major threat. Three-year vet Brian Hill, 2018 fourth-round pick Ito Smith and 2019 fifth-round pick Qadree Ollison will add depth to that spot, and Keith Smith will be the fullback.

Jake Matthews and Alex Mack will be back to anchor the left tackle and center spots, respectively, though the Falcons drafted Mack's eventual successor in Temple's Matt Hennessy in the third round of the 2020 NFL Draft. In the meantime, Hennessy is expected to compete for the left guard spot with guys like James Carpenter, Jamon Brown and Matt Gono. He's got the

2020 SCHEDULE			2019 NFL RANKINGS				
Date	Opponent	Time	2019 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 13	Seattle	1:00	11-5	374.4 (8)	381.6 (26)	25.3 (9)	24.9 (22)
Sept. 20	at Dallas	1:00	8-8	431.5 (1)	327.0 (9)	27.1 (6)	20.1 (11)
Sept. 27	Chicago	1:00	8-8	296.8 (29)	324.1 (8)	17.5 (29)	18.6 (4)
Oct. 5	at Green Bay (Mon.)	8:15	13-3	345.5 (18)	352.6 (18)	23.5 (15)	19.6 (9)
Oct. 11	Carolina	1:00	5-11	341.8 (19)	374.5 (23)	21.2 (20)	29.4 (31)
Oct. 18	at Minnesota	1:00	10-6	353.5 (16)	341.6 (14)	25.4 (8)	18.9 (t5)
Oct. 25	Detroit	1:00	3-12-1	346.8 (17)	400.4 (31)	21.3 (t18)	26.4 (26)
Oct. 29	at Carolina (Thu.)	8:20	5-11	341.8 (19)	374.5 (23)	21.2 (20)	29.4 (31)
Nov. 8	Denver	1:00	7-9	298.6 (28)	337.0 (12)	17.6 (28)	19.8 (10)
BYE							
Nov. 22	at New Orleans	1:00	13-3	373.9 (9)	333.1 (11)	28.6 (t3)	21.3 (13)
Nov. 29	Las Vegas	1:00	7-9	363.7 (11)	354.8 (19)	19.6 (24)	26.2 (24)
Dec. 6	New Orleans	1:00	13-3	373.9 (9)	333.1 (11)	28.6 (t3)	21.3 (13)
Dec. 13	at L.A. Chargers	4:25	5-11	367.4 (10)	313.1 (6)	21.1 (21)	21.6 (14)
Dec. 20	Tampa Bay	1:00	7-9	397.9 (3)	343.9 (15)	28.6 (t3)	28.1 (29)
Dec. 27	at Kansas City	1:00	12-4	379.2 (6)	349.6 (17)	28.2 (5)	19.2 (7)
Jan. 3	at Tampa Bay	1:00	7-9	397.9 (3)	343.9 (15)	28.6 (t3)	28.1 (29)

Greg Trott via AP

Julio Jones

WIDE RECEIVER

2019 RESULTS (7-9)

Sept.	8	at Minnesota	L	12-28
Sept.	15	Philadelphia	W	24-20
Sept.	22	at Indianapolis	L	24-27
Sept.	29	Tennessee	L	10-24
Oct.	6	at Houston	L	32-53
Oct.	13	at Arizona	L	33-34
Oct.	20	L.A. Rams	L	10-37
Oct.	27	Seattle	L	20-27
Nov.	10	at New Orleans	W	26-9
Nov.	17	at Carolina	W	29-3
Nov.	24	Tampa Bay	L	22-35
Nov.	28	New Orleans	L	18-26
Dec.	8	Carolina	W	40-20
Dec.	15	at San Francisco	W	29-22
Dec.	22	Jacksonville	W	24-12
Dec.	29	at Tampa Bay (ot)	W	28-22

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Matt Ryan	616	408	4,466	26	14
Matt Schaub	67	50	580	3	1

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Devonta Freeman	184	656	3.6	2
Brian Hill	78	323	4.1	2
Matt Ryan	34	147	4.3	1
Ito Smith	22	106	4.8	1

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Julio Jones	99	1,394	14.1	6
Calvin Ridley	63	866	13.7	7
Austin Hooper	75	787	10.5	6
Russell Gage	49	446	9.1	1
Devonta Freeman	59	410	6.9	4

KICKING: Younghoe Koo, 23-26 FGs, 15-16 PAT, 84 points; Matt Bryant, 9-14 FGs, 14-15 PAT, 41 points

TACKLES: De'Vondre Campbell, 129; Deion Jones, 110

SACKS: Vic Beasley, 8.0; Grady Jarrett, 7.5

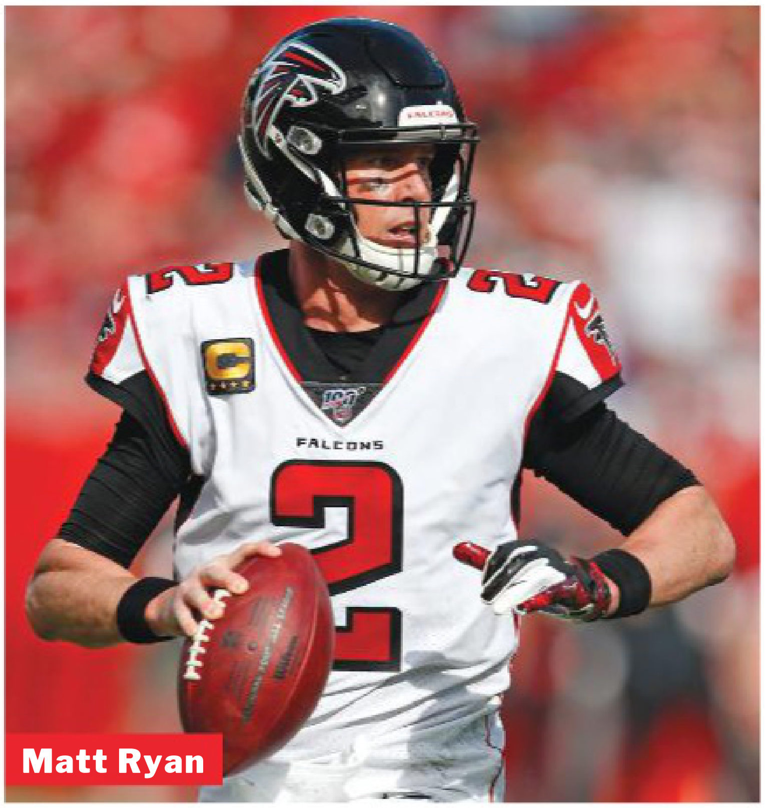
INTERCEPTIONS: Desmond Trufant, 4; Damontae Kazee, 3

2019 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	379.7	5	4
Rushing	85.1	30	16
Passing	294.6	3	3
Scoring	23.8	13	9
Third Down %	42.0	10	5
Punt Returns	7.1	15	6
Kick Returns	22.8	T12	6

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	355.8	20	10
Rushing	110.9	15	7
Passing	244.9	22	11
Scoring	24.9	23	10
Interceptions	12	T17	T7
Sacks	28	T29	T14
Turnover Differential	-5	T24	T12

inside shot to win it outright and play there until Mack departs. Promising 2019 first-round picks Chris Lindstrom and Kaleb McGary will man the right side, which could give Atlanta its best offensive line prospects since 2017. That could bode well for a team that needs to live up to the potential of its QB and skill players.



Matt Ryan

Tom DiPace via AP

DEFENSE The defense was a mirror-image of the offense in 2019. In the first eight weeks of the season, it allowed an abysmal 31.3 points per game before tightening up to 18.6 points per game to close the year. It speaks volumes of the willingness of Quinn to relinquish his brief defensive coordinator stint and let veteran defensive mind Raheem Morris and linebackers coach Jeff Ulbrich run the unit. It was much more efficient in that mode than it was when Quinn was doubling up duties and could improve further this season.

The defensive line has long been a sore spot, with the team failing to develop first-round investments at defensive end and never really finding Pro Bowl defensive tackle Grady Jarrett a suitable long-term partner on the inside. That could change, though, with former Jaguars and Rams pass rusher Dante Fowler Jr., one of the best edge rushers available in free agency, signing in Atlanta. The team also drafted Auburn defensive lineman Marlon Davidson in the second round. The speedy, aggressive Fowler can give the team the starting rusher it has needed since Vic Beasley's post-2016 regression, and Davidson can serve as a big-bodied mauler up front next to Jarrett, an elite talent at the position.

Former first-round pick Takkarist McKinley can still turn the corner on his career and generate more consistent pressure off the edge. John Cominsky is a breakout candidate with the versatility to play outside and inside, and guys like DT Tyeler Davison, DE Steven Means, DE Allen Bailey, DT Jacob Tuioti-Mariner and DT Deadrin Senat give the team sound veteran depth.

The linebacking group has a great talent in Deion Jones and a rising one in Foyesade Oluokun. The latter will likely take the snaps that LB De'Vondre Campbell left in his departure for Arizona, and fourth-round pick Mykal Walker is already being penciled in for the role that Oluokun filled last fall. Eight-year NFL veteran LaRoy Reynolds returns to Atlanta to add depth, and former XFLer Edmond Robinson will be in the mix.

The secondary has a lot of youth. Its elder statesmen are starting free safety Ricardo Allen, a 2014 draft pick, and reserve corner Blidi Wreh-Wilson, a 2013 draft pick of the Tennessee Titans. The team cut longtime starter Desmond Trufant in March and replaced him with first-round pick A.J. Terrell out of Clemson. Some felt Terrell was a reach at 16, but the front office has a knack for scouting secondary talent and seemed elated to get Terrell where they did. He joins Kendall Sheffield, perhaps the future slot guy, and Isaiah Oliver, a progressing 2018 second-round pick who should start opposite Terrell. It'll be a growing unit, but in the right direction. Keanu Neal also returns from his Achilles injury. If he's healthy, it transforms the unit and gives the team its enforcer. Safety Damontae Kazee has also started in the past and can help the team run three-safety packages.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Younghoe Koo impressed enough in the back half of last season to be the frontrunner for that job right now. Veteran Ryan Allen will compete with 2020 seventh-round pick Sterling Hofrichter for the punting duties. Josh Harris will man his usual spot at long snapper. Rookie Chris Rowland got a lucrative undrafted free agent contract, which could indicate that he's the frontrunner for return duties. The team said that little-used receiver Brandon Powell had the inside track on that spot before the draft. It's likely to be a competition between those two and perhaps others.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Quinn/Dimitroff era will either sink or swim in 2020. The team showed what it could do when the coaching was where it needed to be in the last half of the season, when it beat the NFC's top two seeds in New Orleans and San Francisco. It also showed in the first half of the year what happens when the wheels fall off the wagon. Which team shows up this fall will determine the future of this franchise.

Scouting the Falcons

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP ATLANTA "A strong finish and unanimous player support gave Dan Quinn another season. This was a bottom-five rushing offense, forcing them to release RB Devonta Freeman and bring in star RB Todd Gurley II. The explosive WR duo of All-Pro Julio Jones and playmaker Calvin Ridley combined for only 13 TDs. They lost Pro Bowl TE Austin Hooper in free agency but answered that with a trade for former first-round pick Hayden Hurst. … GM Thomas Dimitroff invested a lot of money and draft picks into the OL last offseason, but the lack of depth showed up in an injury-ridden season. Expect a big rebound from this unit, and look for OG Chris Lindstrom to become a star. … Defensively, they have a below-average DL, so they signed DE Dante Fowler Jr. to a big deal to pair up with former first-round pick DE Takkarist McKinley. The ILB position is headlined by fast and rangy Deion Jones, but they lost leading tackler De'Vondre Campbell in free agency. … They released CB Desmond Trufant and drafted CB A.J. Terrell, with high expectations for CBs Isaiah Oliver and Kendall Sheffield to step up. They have solid safeties with Ricardo Allen, versatile Damontae Kazee and Keanu Neal — if he can stay healthy. … This will be the last chance owner Arthur Blank gives Quinn and Dimitroff, so this season, it's win at all costs."

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
DE	Dante Fowler Jr.	L.A. Rams
RB	Todd Gurley II	L.A. Rams
CB	Josh Hawkins	XFL Dallas
TE	Hayden Hurst	Baltimore
TE	Khari Lee	XFL DC
G/T	Justin McCray	Cleveland
WR	Laquon Treadwell	Minnesota
LB	LaRoy Reynolds	Cincinnati
LB	Edmond Robinson	XFL Houston

KEY LOSSES -

POS.	PLAYER	2020 TEAM
RB	Kenjon Barner	Free Agent
LB	Vic Beasley	Tennessee
LB	De'Vondre Campbell	Arizona
DE	Adrian Clayborn	Cleveland
DT	Jack Crawford	Tennessee
RB	Devonta Freeman	Free Agent
WR	Justin Hardy	Free Agent
TE	Austin Hooper	Cleveland
T	Ty Sambrailo	Tennessee
G	Wes Schweitzer	Washington
TE	Luke Stocker	Free Agent
CB	Desmond Trufant	Detroit

Offseason Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR	11	Julio Jones	83	Russell Gage
WR	18	Calvin Ridley	80	Laquon Treadwell
LT	70	Jake Matthews	73	Matt Gono
LG	61	Matt Hennessy (R)	77	James Carpenter
C	51	Alex Mack	61	Matt Hennessy (R)
RG	63	Chris Lindstrom	68	Jamon Brown
RT	76	Kaleb McGary	73	Matt Gono
TE	81	Hayden Hurst	87	Jaeden Graham
QB	2	Matt Ryan	8	Matt Schaub
RB	21	Todd Gurley II	25	Ito Smith
RB	23	Brian Hill	30	Qadree Ollison

DEFENSE

DE	98	Takkarist McKinley	93	Allen Bailey
DT	96	Tyeler Davison	90	Marlon Davidson (R)
DT	97	Grady Jarrett	50	John Cominsky
DE	56	Dante Fowler Jr.	55	Steven Means
OLB	43	Mykal Walker (R)	46	Edmond Robinson
MLB	45	Deion Jones	59	LaRoy Reynolds
OLB	54	Foyesade Oluokun	46	Edmond Robinson
CB	24	A.J. Terrell (R)	27	Damontae Kazee
CB	26	Isaiah Oliver	33	Blidi Wreh-Wilson
SS	22	Keanu Neal	41	Sharrod Neasman
FS	37	Ricardo Allen	27	Damontae Kazee

SPECIALISTS

K	7	Younghoe Koo	KR 15	Brandon Powell
P	4	Sterling Hofrichter (R)	PR 15	Brandon Powell

2020 VETERAN FALCONS ROSTER

	QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
6	Benkert, Kurt	QB	6-4	215	1	Virginia	FA-18	FA-Atl-18
16	Etling, Danny	QB	6-3	220	1	LSU	W-NE-19	D7-NE-18
2	Ryan, Matt	QB	6-4	217	12	Boston College	D1a-08	D1a-Atl-08
8	Schaub, Matt	QB	6-6	245	16	Virginia	FA-16	D3-Atl-04

	RUNNING BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
21	Gurley II, Todd	RB	6-1	224	5	Georgia	FA-LAR-20	D1-LAR-15
23	Hill, Brian	RB	6-1	219	3	Wyoming	FA-18	D5-Atl-17
30	Ollison, Qadree	RB	6-1	232	1	Pittsburgh	D5a-19	D5a-Atl-19
42	Reynolds, Craig	RB	5-11	225	1	Kutztown	FA-19	FA-Atl-19
25	Smith, Ito	RB	5-9	195	2	Southern Miss	D4-18	D4-Atl-18
40	Smith, Keith	FB	6-0	240	6	San Jose State	FA-19	FA-Dal-14

	RECEIVERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
13	Blake, Christian	WR	6-1	181	1	Northern Illinois	FA-18	FA-Atl-18
83	Gage, Russell	WR	6-0	184	2	LSU	D6a-18	D6a-Atl-18
87	Graham, Jaeden	TE	6-4	250	1	Yale	FA-18	FA-Atl-18
19	Gray, Devin	WR	6-0	192	1	Cincinnati	FA-18	FA-Atl-18
81	Hurst, Hayden	TE	6-4	260	2	South Carolina	T-Bal-20	D1a-Bal-18
11	Jones, Julio	WR	6-3	220	9	Alabama	D1-11	D1-Atl-11
88	Lee, Khari	TE	6-4	253	4	Bowie State	FA-20	FA-Hou-15
85	Meier, Carson	TE	6-5	254	1	Oklahoma	FA-19	FA-Jac-19
15	Powell, Brandon	WR	5-8	181	1	Florida	FA-19	FA-Det-18
18	Ridley, Calvin	WR	6-1	190	2	Alabama	D1-18	D1-Atl-18
80	Treadwell, Laquon	WR	6-2	215	4	Ole Miss	FA-Min-20	D1-Min-16
17	Zaccheaus, Olamide	WR	5-8	193	1	Virginia	FA-19	FA-Atl-19

	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
68	Brown, Jamon	G	6-4	340	5	Louisville	FA-NYG-19	D3-LAR-15
77	Carpenter, James	G	6-5	321	9	Alabama	FA-NYJ-19	D1-Sea-11
73	Gono, Matt	G/T	6-4	305	2	Wesley	FA-18	FA-Atl-18
64	Harlow, Sean	G	6-4	284	2	Oregon State	FA-18	D4-Atl-17
63	Lindstrom, Chris	G	6-4	307	1	Boston College	D1a-19	D1a-Atl-19
51	Mack, Alex	C	6-4	311	11	California	FA-16	D1-Cle-09
70	Matthews, Jake	T	6-5	309	6	Texas A&M	D1-14	D1-Atl-14
65	McCray, Justin	G	6-3	315	3	UCF	FA-Cle-20	FA-Ten-14
76	McGary, Kaleb	T	6-6	306	1	Washington	D1b-19	D1b-Atl-19
75	Wetzel, John	T	6-7	328	3	Boston College	FA-19	FA-LV-13

	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
93	Bailey, Allen	DE	6-3	288	9	Miami	FA-19	D3-KC-11
50	Cominsky, John	DE	6-5	285	1	Charleston (WV)	D4b-19	D4b-Atl-19
96	Davison, Tyeler	DT	6-2	309	5	Fresno State	FA-NO-19	D5b-NO-15
56	Fowler Jr., Dante	DE	6-3	255	5	Florida	FA-LAR-20	D1-Jac-15
92	Harris, Charles	DE	6-3	252	3	Missouri	T-Mia-20	D1-Mia-17
97	Jarrett, Grady	DT	6-0	305	5	Clemson	D5-15	D5-Atl-15
55	Larkin, Austin	DE	6-3	255	1	Purdue	FA-19	FA-Dal-18
98	McKinley, Takkarist	DE	6-2	250	3	UCLA	D1-17	D1-Atl-17
55	Means, Steven	DE	6-3	263	4	Buffalo	FA-18	D5-TB-13
94	Senat, Deadrin	DT	6-1	305	2	South Florida	D3-18	D3-Atl-18
91	Tuioti-Mariner, Jacob	DE	6-2	285	1	UCLA	FA-18	FA-Atl-18

	LINEBACKERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
45	Jones, Deion	LB	6-1	222	4	LSU	D2-16	D2-Atl-16
54	Oluokun, Foyesade	LB	6-2	215	2	Yale	D6b-18	D6b-Atl-18
46	Robinson, Edmond	LB	6-3	245	3	Newberry	FA-20	D7-Min-15
59	Reynolds, LaRoy	LB	6-1	240	7	Virginia	FA-Cin-20	FA-Jac-13
52	Thomas, Ahmad	LB	6-0	227	1	Oklahoma	FA-18	FA-LV-17

	DEFENSIVE BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
37	Allen, Ricardo	S	5-9	186	6	Purdue	D5a-14	D5a-Atl-14
35	Carter, Jamal	S	6-1	215	2	Miami	FA-19	FA-Den-17
34	Cooper, Chris	S	5-10	202	2	Stony Brook	FA-19	FA-Ind-18
29	Hawkins, Josh	CB	5-10	190	3	East Carolina	FA-20	FA-GB-16
27	Kazee, Damontae	S	5-11	174	3	San Diego State	D5-17	D5-Atl-17
28	Miller, Jordan	CB	6-2	190	1	Washington	D5-19	D5-Atl-19
22	Neal, Keanu	S	6-0	211	4	Florida	D1-16	D1-Atl-16
41	Neasman, Sharrod	S	6-0	198	4	Florida Atlantic	FA-18	FA-Atl-16
26	Oliver, Isaiah	CB	6-0	210	2	Colorado	D2-18	D2-Atl-18
39	Reavis, C.J.	DB	6-1	208	1	Marshall	FA-19	FA-Jac-18
20	Sheffield, Kendall	CB	5-10	212	1	Ohio State	D4a-19	D4a-Atl-19
33	Wreh-Wilson, Blidi	CB	6-1	190	7	Connecticut	FA-17	D3-Ten-13

	SPECIALISTS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
9	Allen, Ryan	P	6-2	220	7	Louisiana Tech	FA-19	FA-NE-13
47	Harris, Josh	LS	6-1	240	8	Auburn	FA-12	FA-Atl-12
7	Koo, Younghoe	K	5-10	195	1	Georgia Southern	FA-19	FA-LAC-17

Falcons *in the Draft* | Grade: B+

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	**A.J. Terrell**	**CB**	**6-1**	**195**	**Clemson**
2.	Marlon Davidson	DT	6-3	303	Auburn
3.	Matt Hennessy	C/G	6-3	307	Temple
4.	Mykal Walker	LB	6-3	230	Fresno St.
4.	Jaylinn Hawkins	S	6-1	208	California
7.	Sterling Hofrichter	P	5-10	196	Syracuse

A.J. Terrell will immediately contribute in Atlanta's secondary, perhaps as the top cornerback on the field. Marlon Davidson will likely be the Robin to Grady Jarrett's Batman in certain packages and has exciting potential as an interior disruptor. Matt Hennessy could be the starting left guard this year and will one day take over for Alex Mack at center. Mykal Walker may play early, with Atlanta's linebacking group needing help after De'Vondre Campbell's departure. Jaylinn Hawkins will be a good insurance policy for the safety group and a special teams contributor early. Sterling Hofrichter will step in and compete with vet Ryan Allen for the punter job.

Outside the Huddle

HOMECOMING Todd Gurley II's addition has caused quite a stir in the Peach State. After all, he's a former University of Georgia legend, having rushed for 3,285 yards and 36 touchdowns as a Bulldog.

RYAN AND SONS Part of the fun of being on social media for a Falcons fan is watching Matt Ryan's two sons, Marshall and Johnny, grow up online. The two were born in 2018 and have been shared in occasional Twitter videos. One of their most recent showed Ryan helping his sons wash their hands to a song, as topical a skill as one can learn these days.

DREAM COME TRUE Another player returning to a state he knows well is A.J. Terrell. The cornerback is an Atlanta native, where he played for Westlake High School. His college choice was Clemson, which is a relatively short drive away in South Carolina.

RIGHT AT HOME New Falcons defensive tackle Marlon Davidson is known for providing a killer quote or two when interviewed by sports media. Falcons fans loved one clip of his that went around after he was drafted: What he loves most about the game is hitting and pounding people in football repeatedly without getting into any trouble. "That is the most enjoyable moment about ball," he said with a smile.

A FRIENDLY WELCOME Part of the Falcons' 2020 NFL Draft set-up made public a tradition that Falcons draft picks have enjoyed in the past. The players get a chance to hear the news from general manager Thomas Dimitroff and say hello to head coach Dan Quinn, and team owner Arthur Blank also makes it a point to speak to each draft pick and welcome him to Atlanta.

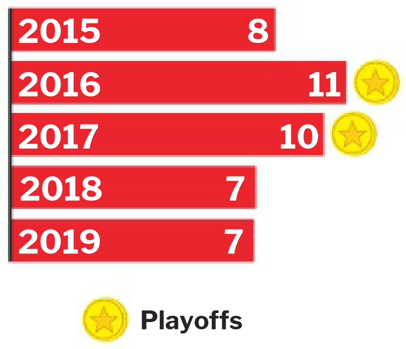
BACK TOGETHER It's a special reunion for Falcons head coach Dan Quinn and newly acquired pass rusher Dante Fowler Jr. The two were together at Florida in 2012, when Quinn was the defensive coordinator and Fowler was a star rusher for the Gators. The two have even shared a Thanksgiving meal together in the past.

XFL CASTAWAYS Though the ongoing COVID-19 crisis took its toll on the XFL, a football league for developing players who want a shot in the NFL, some XFL vets got jobs in Atlanta. TE Khari Lee (DC Defenders), LB Edmond Robinson (Houston Roughnecks) and CB Josh Hawkins (Dallas Renegades) all will compete for roster spots with the Falcons.

SIXTH-ROUND STEALS Sixth-round picks from 2018 Russell Gage and Foyesade Oluokun will have big roles with the Falcons this season. Gage is likely to take on the third wideout role behind Julio Jones and Calvin Ridley, while Oluokun has Quinn's seal of approval to take starting snaps at linebacker next to Pro Bowl talent Deion Jones.

NEVER GIVE UP Ricardo Allen is heading into his seventh season with the Falcons. His journey to a starting role is always worth remembering: A corner out of Purdue, he was cut as a 2014 draft pick and signed to the practice squad. When Quinn was hired in 2015, he gave Allen a shot at free safety, where he's started and flourished ever since. Now he's a leader on the field and in the locker room.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



NUMBERS TO KNOW

21

The Falcons had seven sacks at their Week 9 bye but had 21 in their last eight games.

6.8

Atlanta's offense averaged 6.8 plays per drive, second highest in the NFL behind only Baltimore.

19.3

The Falcons kicked field goals to end 19.3 percent of their possessions, the second-highest rate in the NFL.

Paul Abell

Carolina PANTHERS

NFC South Forecast: 4

In many ways, the 2020 Carolina Panthers will look a whole lot like the franchise's very first team.

That was in 1995, when the Panthers fielded an expansion team in which everything was new. That's what this year will feel like, as the Panthers have a new head coach (Matt Rhule, replacing Ron Rivera), a new quarterback (Teddy Bridgewater, in for Cam Newton) and very few of their iconic players left.

Linebacker Luke Kuechly surprised everyone by retiring in early 2020. Tight end Greg Olsen was released and signed with Seattle. The Panthers tried to trade Newton, failed and ultimately released him.

The undisputed face of the franchise is now running back Christian McCaffrey, one of the few recognizable players on a team that blew nearly everything up after losing its final eight games of 2019 to finish 5–11. Carolina tried to rebuild the offense via free agency and then the defense via the draft, where the Panthers chose seven defensive players and none on offense — the first time that has happened since the common draft era began in 1967.

OFFENSE Newton quarterbacked the Panthers from 2011-19 but was injury-prone during his final two seasons. Bridgewater, 27, is not nearly the runner that Newton was in his prime, but his accuracy may be better, and he went 5–0 starting for New Orleans in 2019. The Panthers wanted him in part because new offensive coordinator Joe Brady overlapped with Bridgewater for a year with the New Orleans Saints and was impressed with Bridgewater's work habits.

A word about Brady: He's only 30, and the Panthers gave him big money to lure him from LSU. Brady loved to get five guys out into the pass pattern in college, and his creativity will be fun to watch this season as the Panthers are giving him a blank slate.

The Panthers' likely second-string quarterback, P.J. Walker, comes from the XFL and before that was Rhule's quarterback at Temple. He's athletic but small (5'11"). Will Grier, Carolina's third-round pick in 2019, was very ineffective in two starts last season.

Bridgewater's best weapon will be McCaffrey, currently the NFL's best running back, a fantasy football godsend and a guy who could start at wide receiver for many NFL teams, too. Throwing a swing pass to McCaffrey was the team's best offense last season, but it would be wise not to use him quite as much in 2020 given the $64 million long-term deal (it runs through the 2025 season) he just signed that made him the NFL's highest-paid running back.

DJ Moore is the team's No. 1 receiver — a YAC specialist who had 1,175 receiving yards in 2019. Robby Anderson was Carolina's most expensive free-agent signing besides Bridgewater and should add some speed and productivity to the No. 2 spot. Curtis Samuel was inconsistent in 2019 and will likely be demoted to the No. 3 role, where perhaps his speed will be more noticeable against other teams' No. 3 cornerbacks. At tight end, Carolina needs Ian Thomas — who is athletic but has had a problem with drops — to step up in Olsen's absence.

The offensive line, which was generally poor in 2019, didn't get enough help in the offseason. It has a new left tackle in Russell Okung, but to get him required trading the Panthers' best O-lineman for most of the past several years — guard Trai Turner — to the Los Angeles Chargers.

THE ORGANIZATION

Owner/Founder: David A. Tepper
General Manager: Marty Hurney
Director of Pro Personnel: Matt Allen
Director of Football Operations: Bryan Porter
Stadium: Bank of America Stadium (75,525)
Surface: Grass
Website: www.panthers.com
Tickets: 704-358-7253
Training Camp: Wofford College (Spartanburg, S.C.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Matt Rhule
Record With Team: 0-0
Career Record: 0-0
Offensive Coordinator: Joe Brady
Defensive Coordinator: Phil Snow
Special Teams Coordinator: Chase Blackburn
Quarterbacks: Jake Peetz
Senior Offensive Assistant/Running Backs: Jeff Nixon
Wide Receivers: Frisman Jackson
Tight Ends: Brian Angelichio
Offensive Line: Pat Meyer
Defensive Line: Mike Phair
Linebackers: Mike Siravo

2020 SCHEDULE

2019 NFL RANKINGS

Date	Opponent	Time	2019 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 13	Las Vegas	1:00	7-9	363.7 (11)	354.8 (19)	19.6 (24)	26.2 (24)
Sept. 20	at Tampa Bay	1:00	7-9	397.9 (3)	343.9 (15)	28.6 (t3)	28.1 (29)
Sept. 27	at L.A. Chargers	4:05	5-11	367.4 (10)	313.1 (6)	21.1 (21)	21.6 (14)
Oct. 4	Arizona	1:00	5-10-1	341.7 (21)	402.0 (32)	22.6 (t16)	27.6 (28)
Oct. 11	at Atlanta	1:00	7-9	379.7 (5)	355.8 (20)	23.8 (13)	24.9 (23)
Oct. 18	Chicago	1:00	8-8	296.8 (29)	324.1 (8)	17.5 (29)	18.6 (4)
Oct. 25	at New Orleans	1:00	13-3	373.9 (9)	333.1 (11)	28.6 (t3)	21.3 (13)
Oct. 29	Atlanta (Thu.)	8:20	7-9	379.7 (5)	355.8 (20)	23.8 (13)	24.9 (23)
Nov. 8	at Kansas City	1:00	12-4	379.2 (6)	349.6 (17)	28.2 (5)	19.2 (7)
Nov. 15	Tampa Bay	1:00	7-9	397.9 (3)	343.9 (15)	28.6 (t3)	28.1 (29)
Nov. 22	Detroit	1:00	3-12-1	346.8 (17)	400.4 (31)	21.3 (t18)	26.4 (26)
Nov. 29	at Minnesota	1:00	10-6	353.5 (16)	341.6 (14)	25.4 (8)	18.9 (t5)
BYE							
Dec. 13	Denver	1:00	7-9	298.6 (28)	337.0 (12)	17.6 (28)	19.8 (10)
Dec.19/20	at Green Bay	TBD	13-3	345.5 (18)	352.6 (18)	23.5 (15)	19.6 (9)
Dec. 27	at Washington	1:00	3-13	274.7 (31)	385.1 (27)	16.6 (32)	27.2 (27)
Jan. 3	New Orleans	1:00	13-3	373.9 (9)	333.1 (11)	28.6 (t3)	21.3 (13)

Christian McCaffrey

RUNNING BACK

2019 RESULTS
(5-11)

Sept. 8	L.A. Rams	L	27-30
Sept. 12	Tampa Bay	L	14-20
Sept. 22	at Arizona	W	38-20
Sept. 29	at Houston	W	16-10
Oct. 6	Jacksonville	W	34-27
Oct. 13	at Tampa Bay	W	37-26
Oct. 27	at San Francisco	L	13-51
Nov. 3	Tennessee	W	30-20
Nov. 10	at Green Bay	L	16-24
Nov. 17	Atlanta	L	3-29
Nov. 24	at New Orleans	L	31-34
Dec. 1	Washington	L	21-29
Dec. 8	at Atlanta	L	20-40
Dec. 15	Seattle	L	24-30
Dec. 22	at Indianapolis	L	6-38
Dec. 29	New Orleans	L	10-42

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Kyle Allen	489	303	3,322	17	16
Cam Newton	89	50	572	0	1

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Christian McCaffrey	287	1,387	4.8	15
Kyle Allen	32	106	3.3	2
Curtis Samuel	19	130	6.8	1
Reggie Bonnafon	16	116	7.3	1

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
DJ Moore	87	1,175	13.5	4
Christian McCaffrey	116	1,005	8.7	4
Curtis Samuel	54	627	11.6	6
Greg Olsen	52	597	11.5	2

KICKING: Joey Slye, 25-32 FGs, 31-35 PAT, 106 points

TACKLES: Luke Kuechly, 144; Eric Reid, 130

SACKS: Mario Addison, 9.5; Bruce Irvin, 8.5

INTERCEPTIONS: Three tied with 3

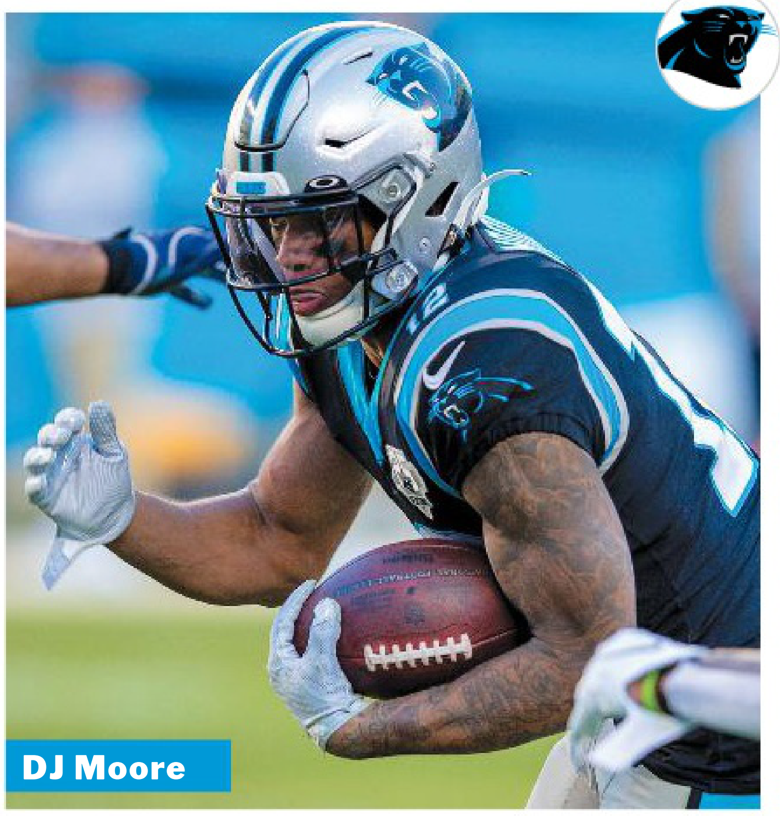
2019 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	341.8	19	12
Rushing	113.7	14	7
Passing	228.1	20	12
Scoring	21.2	20	14
Third Down %	31.9	29	15
Punt Returns	6.8	T20	T8
Kick Returns	21.8	T20	10

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	374.5	23	11
Rushing	143.5	29	15
Passing	231.0	13	5
Scoring	29.4	31	16
Interceptions	14	T8	4
Sacks	53	2	1
Turnover Differential	-14	T29	15

McCaffrey: Peter Brouillet; Moore: W.E. Smith

Center Matt Paradis gets paid a lot but had a disappointing 2019 and allows pressure up the middle far too often. Taylor Moton is a bright spot and will probably play right tackle again. The guard spots are up for grabs. Dennis Daley and Greg Little were underwhelming as rookies but will have a chance for playing time. New free agent John Miller may start. O-line is a place where an undrafted free agent or two will likely make the team.


DJ Moore

DEFENSE Carolina will switch back to a base 4-3 defense under Rhule and new defensive coordinator Phil Snow, whom Rhule brought with him from Baylor. The Panthers defense has an obvious Job One: Learn how to stop the run again. In 2019, Carolina gave up a staggering 31 rushing touchdowns, which not only was the most in the NFL but also was the most since the 2008 Detroit Lions (who went 0-16) — and that was with Kuechly.

The Panthers' defensive front could have a "KK and the Kids" vibe: defensive tackle Kawann "KK" Short returns from injury, and No. 1 draft pick Derrick Brown will likely start alongside him on the inside. Second-year defensive end Brian Burns (7.5 sacks in 2019), rookie DE Yetur Gross-Matos and rookie DT Bravvion Roy (another former Baylor Bear) should all see extensive playing time. Rhule says he is "very, very high" on Efe Obada, who will continue to see more playing time on the outside. Free-agent signee Stephen Weatherly may start after being a reserve on a good defense in Minnesota.

At linebacker, Kuechly leaves an enormous hole. Carolina re-upped with outside linebacker Shaq Thompson, who could be on the verge of emerging as a star. Veteran Tahir Whitehead won't be nearly as explosive as Kuechly but is a heady player who can at least get the youngsters lined up. Jermaine Carter Jr. will probably have the edge at the third linebacker spot, although in many cases the Panthers will play a 4-2-5 alignment, given the pass-first offenses of the NFC South. The nickel cornerback could be third-round pick Jeremy Chinn, a hybrid player who comes in as a safety but was drafted in part to cover tight ends over the middle.

The defensive secondary has been largely remade. Speedy cornerback Donte Jackson returns, and the Panthers opted for ballhawk safety Tre Boston over run-stopper Eric Reid, who was released. So there will be at least two new starters. Juston Burris will likely be one at safety, while rookie Troy Pride Jr. — a fourth-round pick with speed similar to Jackson's — will have a great shot at the other corner due to the departure of high-priced free agent James Bradberry to the New York Giants.

SPECIALISTS There will be a battle for placekicker, as 11-year veteran Graham Gano — who has missed 20 games to injury in the past two years — tries to hold off Joey Slye. Slye has a very big leg, made a franchise-record eight field goals of 50 or more yards in 2019 and is a much cheaper option than Gano. But Slye also struggles with accuracy sometimes and missed seven field goals in 2019.

Punter will be more straightforward, as lefty Michael Palardy returns after a solid 2019. Pharoh Cooper will likely handle both punt and kickoff returns, a place where Carolina has struggled. Cooper was a Pro Bowl returner with the Rams in 2017.

FINAL ANALYSIS Rhule got a seven-year contract from Panthers owner David Tepper, and no one is really expecting him to win a lot in his first year. It's all about the "process," Rhule is fond of saying, even though he knows people cringe at the word because "it sounds so boring." At both Temple and Baylor — Rhule's two successful college reclamation projects — it took until Year Three before Rhule got things going the way he wanted. Tepper has acknowledged that Rome wasn't built in a day.

The Panthers are in a transitional situation in 2020, likely to finish at the bottom of the NFC South again but with enough weapons on offense to make games interesting. Don't be surprised if the Panthers end up in a number of 34–31 shootouts. Still, this is a team that is at least a year away, and maybe two, from serious playoff contention.

2020 VETERAN PANTHERS ROSTER

	QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
5	Bridgewater, Teddy	QB	6-2	215	6	Louisville	FA-NO-20	D1-Min-14
3	Grier, Will	QB	6-1	220	1	West Virginia	D3-19	D3-Car-19
6	Walker, P.J.	QB	5-11	210	1	Temple	FA-20	FA-Ind-17

	RUNNING BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
40	Armah, Alex	FB	6-2	255	3	West Georgia	D6-17	D6-Car-17
39	Bonnafon, Reggie	RB	6-0	215	1	Louisville	FA-18	FA-Car-18
27	Davis, Mike	RB	5-9	220	5	South Carolina	W-Chi-19	D4-SF-15
22	McCaffrey, Christian	RB	5-11	205	3	Stanford	D1-17	D1-Car-17
20	Scarlett, Jordan	RB	5-11	210	1	Florida	D5-19	D5-Car-19

	RECEIVERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
11	Anderson, Robby	WR	6-3	190	4	Valencia	FA-NYJ-20	FA-NYJ-16
14	Cooper, Pharoh	WR	5-11	208	4	South Carolina	FA-Ari-20	D4-LAR-16
87	DeValve, Seth	TE	6-3	245	4	Princeton	FA-Jac-20	D4d-Cle-16
84	Hemingway, Temarrick	TE	6-5	245	3	South Carolina St.	W-Den-19	D6-LAR-16
13	Hyman, Ishmael	WR	6-0	195	1	James Madison	FA-20	FA-Cle-19
83	Jeanpiere, Damion	WR	6-1	185	1	Nicholls State	FA-19	FA-Car-19
19	Kirkwood, Keith	WR	6-3	210	2	Temple	FA-NO-20	FA-NO-18
82	Manhertz, Chris	TE	6-6	255	4	Canisius	W-NO-16	FA-Buf-14
12	Moore, DJ	WR	6-0	210	2	Maryland	D1-18	D1-Car-18
15	Roberts, Seth	WR	6-2	195	5	West Alabama	FA-Bal-20	FA-LV-14
10	Samuel, Curtis	WR	5-11	195	3	Ohio State	D2a-17	D2a-Car-17
80	Thomas, Ian	TE	6-4	260	2	Indiana	D4a-18	D4a-Car-18
82	Thompson, Colin	TE	6-4	257	1	Temple	FA-20	FA-NYG-17
18	White, DeAndrew	WR	6-0	195	2	Alabama	FA-18	FA-SF-15
11	Zylstra, Brandon	WR	6-2	215	2	Concordia	W-Min-19	FA-Min-18

	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
	Bushell-Beatty, Juwann	G/T	6-5	330	1	Michigan	FA-20	FA-Was-19
65	Daley, Dennis	G	6-6	325	1	South Carolina	D6-19	D6-Car-19
63	Kaskey, Matt	T	6-7	325	1	Dartmouth	FA-19	FA-LAR-19
69	Larsen, Tyler	C	6-4	325	4	Utah State	FA-16	FA-Mia-14
74	Little, Greg	T	6-5	310	1	Ole Miss	D2-19	D2-Car-19
68	Marz, Tyler	T	6-7	315	3	Wisconsin	FA-19	FA-Ten-16
67	Miller, John	G	6-3	315	5	Louisville	FA-Cin-20	D3-Buf-15
62	Monteiro, Aaron	T	6-7	320	1	Boston College	FA-19	FA-Mia-19
72	Moton, Taylor	T	6-5	325	3	Western Michigan	D2b-17	D2b-Car-17
76	Okung, Russell	T	6-5	310	10	Oklahoma State	T-LAC-20	D1a-Sea-10
61	Paradis, Matt	C	6-3	300	5	Boise State	FA-Den-19	D6-Den-14
64	Reed, Chris	G	6-4	320	4	Minn. St.-Mankato	W-Mia-19	FA-Jac-15
	Schofield III, Michael	G	6-6	301	6	Michigan	FA-LAC-20	D3-Den-14

	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
53	Burns, Brian	DE	6-5	250	1	Florida State	D1-19	D1-Car-19
78	Hamilton, Woodrow	DT	6-3	315	2	Ole Miss	FA-19	FA-NE-16
92	Kerr, Zach	DT	6-2	334	6	Delaware	FA-Ari-20	FA-Ind-14
	Lambert, DaVonte	DE	6-2	282	1	Auburn	FA-20	FA-TB-16
94	Obada, Efe	DE	6-6	265	2	None	FA-17	FA-Dal-15
99	Short, Kawann	DT	6-3	315	7	Purdue	D2-13	D2-Car-13
50	Smith, Chris	DE	6-1	265	6	Arkansas	FA-20	D5-Jac-14
91	Weatherly, Stephen	DE	6-5	265	4	Vanderbilt	FA-Min-20	D7a-Min-16

	LINEBACKERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
56	Carter Jr, Jermaine	LB	6-1	225	2	Maryland	D5-18	D5-Car-18
98	Haynes, Marquis	LB	6-2	235	2	Ole Miss	D4b-18	D4b-Car-18
43	Kunaszyk, Jordan	LB	6-3	235	1	California	FA-19	FA-Car-19
55	Miller, Christian	LB	6-3	245	1	Alabama	D4-19	D4-Car-19
57	Smith, Andre	LB	6-0	240	2	North Carolina	D7a-18	D7a-Car-18
46	Teuhema, Sione	LB	6-4	250	1	SE Louisiana	FA-19	FA-Car-19
54	Thompson, Shaq	LB	6-0	230	5	Washington	D1-15	D1-Car-15
52	Whitehead, Tahir	LB	6-1	241	8	Temple	FA-LV-20	D5a-Det-12

	DEFENSIVE BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
37	Blanding, Quin	S	6-2	210	1	Virginia	FA-19	FA-Was-18
33	Boston, Tre	S	6-1	205	6	North Carolina	FA-Ari-19	D4-Car-14
31	Burris, Juston	S	6-0	212	4	NC State	FA-Cle-20	D4-NYJ-16
29	Elder, Corn	CB	5-10	185	3	Miami	D5-17	D5-Car-17
36	Green, TJ	CB	6-3	215	3	Clemson	W-NO-19	D2-Ind-16
26	Jackson, Donte	CB	5-10	180	2	LSU	D2-18	D2-Car-18
30	Jamerson, Natrell	DB	5-11	200	2	Wisconsin	W-GB-19	D5-NO-18
32	Luke, Cole	CB	5-11	200	2	Notre Dame	FA-17	FA-Car-17
	Thomas, Derrek	CB	6-3	190	1	Baylor	FA-20	FA-Sea-19

	SPECIALISTS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
9	Gano, Graham	K	6-2	202	10	Florida State	FA-12	FA-Bal-09
44	Jansen, JJ	LS	6-2	235	12	Notre Dame	T-GB-09	FA-GB-08
5	Palardy, Michael	P	5-11	200	4	Tennessee	FA-16	FA-Oak-14
4	Slye, Joey	K	5-11	213	1	Virginia Tech	FA-19	FA-NYG-19

Scouting the Panthers

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP CAROLINA "New head coach Matt Rhule recruited Joe Brady to be his offensive coordinator after Brady's record-breaking passing offense at LSU. New leadership prefers their own players, so they signed QB Teddy Bridgewater, who already had a relationship with Brady from the Saints in 2018 — but that led to an ugly breakup with franchise QB Cam Newton. ... All-Pro RB Christian McCaffrey is a home-run threat anytime he touches the ball, with 2,392 rushing and receiving yards and 19 TDs. ... They have a promising WR in DJ Moore, a gadget player in Curtis Samuel and they signed speedster WR Robby Anderson, who played for Rhule at Temple. They lost fan favorite TE Greg Olsen and will expect more production from TE Ian Thomas. ... This is a bottom-tier OL unit, so they traded for veteran LT Russell Okung to pair with underrated RT Taylor Moton with optimism for young OT Greg Little and OG Dennis Daley. ... Shaq Thompson should lead the ILBs. They expect their top draft picks — DT Derrick Brown and DE Yetur Gross-Matos — to complement second-year edge Brian Burns and free agent DE Stephen Weatherly. ... CB Donte Jackson is a playmaker, but the rest of the CBs are suspect. They re-signed safety Tre Boston and drafted hybrid LB-S Jeremy Chinn. ... This was one of the worst defenses on paper, so for the first time in NFL history, they used all their draft picks on defensive players. The organization released older players and will build their culture around younger players. At best, this is a six-win team, and it could be in contention for the No. 1 overall pick next year."

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
WR	Robby Anderson	N.Y. Jets
QB	Teddy Bridgewater	New Orleans
SS	Juston Burris	Cleveland
WR	Pharoh Cooper	Arizona
OT	Russell Okung	L.A. Chargers
DE	Stephen Weatherly	Minnesota
LB	Tahir Whitehead	Oakland

KEY LOSSES -

POS.	PLAYER	2020 TEAM
DE	Mario Addison	Buffalo
CB	James Bradberry	N.Y. Giants
DT	Gerald McCoy	Dallas
QB	Cam Newton	Free Agent
TE	Greg Olsen	Seattle
S	Eric Reid	Free Agent
OG	Trai Turner	L.A. Chargers

Offseason Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR	12	DJ Moore	19	Keith Kirkwood
WR	11	Robby Anderson	18	DeAndrew White
WR	10	Curtis Samuel	16	Brandon Zylstra
LT	76	Russell Okung	74	Greg Little
LG		Michael Schofield	65	Dennis Daley
C	61	Matt Paradis	69	Tyler Larsen
RG	67	John Miller	65	Dennis Daley
RT	72	Taylor Moton	63	Matt Kaskey
TE	80	Ian Thomas	82	Chris Manhertz
QB	5	Teddy Bridgewater	6	P.J. Walker
RB	22	Christian McCaffrey	39	Reggie Bonnafon

DEFENSE

DE	53	Brian Burns	97	Yetur Gross-Matos (R)
DT	99	Kawann Short	93	Bravvion Roy (R)
DT	95	Derrick Brown (R)	92	Zach Kerr
DE	91	Stephen Weatherly	94	Efe Obada
OLB	54	Shaq Thompson	43	Jordan Kunaszyk
MLB	52	Tahir Whitehead	57	Andre Smith
OLB	56	Jermaine Carter Jr.	55	Christian Miller
CB	26	Donte Jackson	29	Corn Elder
CB	25	Troy Pride Jr. (R)	32	Cole Luke
FS	33	Tre Boston	27	Kenny Robinson (R)
SS	31	Juston Burris	21	Jeremy Chinn (R)

SPECIALISTS

K	9	Graham Gano	KR	14	Pharoh Cooper
P	5	Michael Palardy	PR	14	Pharoh Cooper

Auburn Athletics

Panthers *in the Draft* | Grade: B

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	**Derrick Brown**	**DT**	**6-5**	**325**	**Auburn**
2.	Yetur Gross-Matos	DE	6-5	265	Penn State
2.	Jeremy Chinn	S	6-3	220	Southern Illinois
4	Troy Pride Jr.	CB	5-11	195	Notre Dame
5	Kenny Robinson	S	6-2	200	WVU/XFL
6.	Bravvion Roy	DT	6-1	330	Baylor
7.	Stantley Thomas-Oliver III	CB	6-0	190	FIU

In an unprecedented all-defense draft, the Panthers selected three defensive linemen and four defensive backs. Derrick Brown, an explosive player, should start immediately and will help what was an extremely porous run defense. Yetur Gross-Matos is a strong pass rusher who may bookend last year's No. 1 pick, Brian Burns, at defensive end. Troy Pride Jr. could also start given Carolina's free agency loss of James Bradberry, and if so, he will experience a trial by fire against NFC South quarterbacks Drew Brees, Tom Brady and Matt Ryan. The Panthers traded up to draft Jeremy Chinn, a small-college player who's big for a safety. Kenny Robinson got kicked out of West Virginia for academic fraud but played well in the XFL.

Outside the Huddle

MCCAFFREY'S NUMBERS Running back Christian McCaffrey has been collecting all sorts of numbers. He became just the third player in NFL history to go over 1,000 yards rushing and receiving in the same season in 2019 while being named first-team AP All-Pro at two different positions (running back and flex). In the offseason, McCaffrey has been gathering numbers of a different sort. Every time the Panthers signed or drafted someone, McCaffrey would ask new coach Matt Rhule for the player's phone number. Then McCaffrey would immediately reach out to the player, as he attempts to become a far more active player on a team that has lost almost all of its captains over the past two years.

SACK SUSTAINABILITY The Panthers finished second in the NFL with 53 sacks in 2019 — the biggest bright spot in an otherwise desultory defense. But of their top seven sack artists in 2019, only Brian Burns — who was third with 7.5 sacks as a rookie in 2019 — returns in 2020. Almost everyone else left via free agency or was released, including Mario Addison, who signed with Buffalo after leading the Panthers with 9.5 sacks.

MOORE, MOORE, MOORE The Panthers have had nine different players record at least one 1,000-yard receiving season. DJ Moore is the youngest of that group, going for 1,175 yards at 22 in 2019. Moore's level of connection with new quarterback Teddy Bridgewater in 2020 will be an important element to the season.

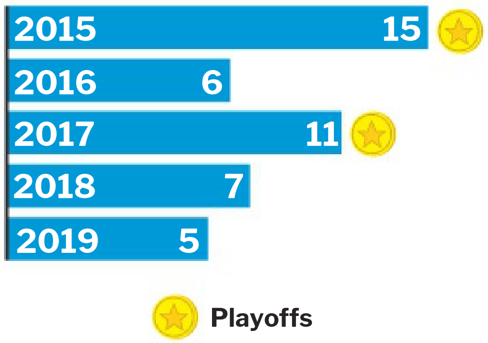
TEPPER'S PLAN Panthers owner David Tepper was once a minority owner of the Pittsburgh Steelers, and he's trying to build a similar franchise in Charlotte. As Tepper said, when asked how long he thought fans would be willing to wait for the Panthers to get good again: "You think people will wait five years for sustained excellence? For 20 years of winning seasons? They better, if they want that. You're not going to get … immediate gratification. … Listen, I'm not going to sit here and BS people. It's a building process. You heard about Rome, right?"

STADIUM SHARING This season will be the final year the Panthers are the only primary tenant at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte. Starting in 2021, Charlotte's new Major League Soccer team — also owned by Tepper — will begin play. Tepper hopes to replicate the success of Atlanta Falcons owner Arthur Blank, whose foray into MLS has been very successful with Atlanta United FC.

RHULE'S GIFT OF GAB One reason the Panthers hired Rhule is that he has an obvious gift of gab, which is useful in a motivational sense. Rhule is the son of a pastor, so he heard his father speak to an audience for years before doing so himself. As GM Marty Hurney said of one of Rhule's first meetings: "He was talking to some of the staff. I sat there thinking, 'I feel like a bobblehead,' because every time he talks, I'm just nodding my head."

JOINED AT THE HIP Former coach Ron Rivera and QB Cam Newton will forever be tied together in Panthers history. The two both entered and left Charlotte within a few months of each other.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



NUMBERS TO KNOW

5.2

Carolina allowed a league-high 5.2 yards per rush attempt in 2019, along with a league-high 31 rushing touchdowns.

3

The Panthers were the only team in the NFL to allow three return touchdowns in 2019, all of them on punt returns.

2:26

Carolina's offense averaged a league-low 2:26 time of possession per offensive drive.

New Orleans
SAINTS

NFC South Forecast: 1

THE ORGANIZATION

Owner: Gayle Benson
President: Dennis Lauscha
Executive VP/General Manager: Mickey Loomis
VP of Football Administration: Khai Harley
Stadium: Mercedes-Benz Superdome (76,468)
Surface: Turf Nation S5
Website: www.neworleanssaints.com
Tickets: 504-731-1700
Training Camp: New Orleans Saints Training Facility (Metairie, La.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Sean Payton
Record With Team: 131-77
Career Record: 131-77
Offensive Coordinator: Pete Carmichael
Defensive Coordinator: Dennis Allen
Special Teams Coordinator: Darren Rizzi
Quarterbacks: Joe Lombardi
Running Backs: Joel Thomas
Wide Receivers: Ronald Curry
Assistant Head Coach/Tight Ends: Dan Campbell
Offensive Line: Dan Roushar
Defensive Line: Ryan Nielsen
Linebackers: Michael Hodges
Secondary: Aaron Glenn

The question that has faced the New Orleans Saints at the onset of the last few seasons applies this time around, too: How does a team that endured such a crushing playoff loss the previous year respond?

The last two years, the Saints rebounded from season-ending losses with enduring names — the Minneapolis Miracle, the No-Call — with 13-win seasons, each time feeling as poised as any team to make a Super Bowl run.

The same figures to be true this time around. Though the Saints fell as heavy favorites at home in the Wild Card round, the last few years have proved that one ill-timed failure is not enough to discount New Orleans in 2020. All the pieces are in place for what again looks to be one of the most talent-rich top-to-bottom rosters in all of football.

Really, the question everyone should ask sounds more like this: How much longer can New Orleans hold its championship window open?

OFFENSE On paper, the Saints offense looks like it will rank among the NFL's most potent in 2020, and in this case, the paper is reliable enough to take to the bank. Since head coach Sean Payton arrived in 2006, New Orleans has ranked in the NFL's top 5 in scoring offense nine times.

The head coach-quarterback pairing drives it all. Drew Brees is back for his 20th NFL season, and his 15th at the helm of the Saints offense. He is 41, but Father Time has shown no signs of catching the future Hall of Famer.

Though it was shortened five games by injury, Brees enjoyed one of the better regular seasons of his career in 2019, establishing career-best marks in passer rating (116.3) and touchdown-to-interception ratio (27:4).

There are certain elements of Brees' game that have taken a hit as he's aged — arm strength, for one — but he has held off decline by honing his already sharp cerebral components. Brees diagnoses defenses faster, gets rid of the ball quicker and makes fewer mistakes.

And, most encouraging, the Saints surrounded him with what may be the best collection of talent he has ever worked with. After the team added wide receiver Emmanuel Sanders this offseason, eight of the 11 projected offensive starters have made a Pro Bowl since 2016. Among those not included on that list are All-Pro right tackle Ryan Ramczyk and promising second-year center Erik McCoy.

This Saints offense should get its legs from the passing game. Sanders adds a versatile wrinkle to an already diverse array of receiving talent at Brees' disposal. The 10-year veteran provides the Saints with an inside-outside threat that should supplement with devastating effect what the team already possesses on the roster.

Star receiver Michael Thomas is an anomaly. Players who take up as much volume of the passing game as he does (185 targets last year, the most in the NFL by 28 targets) are not supposed to be as efficient as Thomas is (80.5 percent catch rate).

Now, pair those two receivers with a big, fast tight end who can stretch the field vertically in Jared Cook (an average of 19.2 yards per catch, seven touchdowns in the second half of the 2019 season), as well as one of the NFL's top pass-catching running backs in Alvin Kamara, and it's easy to see why there's so much optimism surrounding the Saints offensive attack in 2020. They can hurt you at every level of the defense.

Peter Brouillet

2020 SCHEDULE

2019 NFL RANKINGS

Date	Opponent	Time	2019 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 13	Tampa Bay	4:25	7-9	397.9 (3)	343.9 (15)	28.6 (t3)	28.1 (29)
Sept. 21	at Las Vegas (Mon.)	8:15	7-9	363.7 (11)	354.8 (19)	19.6 (24)	26.2 (24)
Sept. 27	Green Bay	8:20	13-3	345.5 (18)	352.6 (18)	23.5 (15)	19.6 (9)
Oct. 4	at Detroit	1:00	3-12-1	346.8 (17)	400.4 (31)	21.3 (t18)	26.4 (26)
Oct. 12	L.A. Chargers (Mon.)	8:15	5-11	367.4 (10)	313.1 (6)	21.1 (21)	21.6 (14)
BYE							
Oct. 25	Carolina	1:00	5-11	341.8 (19)	374.5 (23)	21.2 (20)	29.4 (31)
Nov. 1	at Chicago	4:25	8-8	296.8 (29)	324.1 (8)	17.5 (29)	18.6 (4)
Nov. 8	at Tampa Bay	8:20	7-9	397.9 (3)	343.9 (15)	28.6 (t3)	28.1 (29)
Nov. 15	San Francisco	4:25	13-3	381.1 (4)	281.8 (2)	29.9 (2)	19.4 (8)
Nov. 22	Atlanta	1:00	7-9	379.7 (5)	355.8 (20)	23.8 (13)	24.9 (23)
Nov. 29	at Denver	4:05	7-9	298.6 (28)	337.0 (12)	17.6 (28)	19.8 (10)
Dec. 6	at Atlanta	1:00	7-9	379.7 (5)	355.8 (20)	23.8 (13)	24.9 (23)
Dec. 13	at Philadelphia	4:25	9-7	360.8 (14)	331.7 (10)	24.1 (12)	22.1 (15)
Dec. 20	Kansas City	4:25	12-4	379.2 (6)	349.6 (17)	28.2 (5)	19.2 (7)
Dec. 25	Minnesota (Fri.)	4:30	10-6	353.5 (16)	341.6 (14)	25.4 (8)	18.9 (t5)
Jan. 3	at Carolina	1:00	5-11	341.8 (19)	374.5 (23)	21.2 (20)	29.4 (31)

Drew Brees

QUARTERBACK

2019 RESULTS (13-3)

Sept.	9	Houston	W	30-28
Sept.	15	at L.A. Rams	L	9-27
Sept.	22	at Seattle	W	33-27
Sept.	29	Dallas	W	12-10
Oct.	6	Tampa Bay	W	31-24
Oct.	13	at Jacksonville	W	13-6
Oct.	20	at Chicago	W	36-25
Oct.	27	Arizona	W	31-9
Nov.	10	Atlanta	L	9-26
Nov.	17	at Tampa Bay	W	34-17
Nov.	24	Carolina	W	34-31
Nov.	28	at Atlanta	W	26-18
Dec.	8	San Francisco	L	46-48
Dec.	16	Indianapolis	W	34-7
Dec.	22	at Tennessee	W	37-28
Dec.	29	at Carolina	W	42-10
Postseason				
Jan.	5	Minnesota (ot)	L	20-26

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Drew Brees	378	281	2,979	27	4
Teddy Bridgewater	196	133	1,384	9	2

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Alvin Kamara	171	797	4.7	5
Latavius Murray	146	637	4.4	5
Taysom Hill	27	156	5.8	1

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Michael Thomas	149	1,725	11.6	9
Jared Cook	43	705	16.4	9
Alvin Kamara	81	533	6.6	1
Ted Ginn Jr.	30	421	14.0	2
Latavius Murray	34	235	6.9	1

KICKING: Wil Lutz, 32-36 FGs, 48-49 PAT, 144 points

TACKLES: Demario Davis, 111; Vonn Bell, 89

SACKS: Cameron Jordan, 15.5; Marcus Davenport, 6.0

INTERCEPTIONS: Marcus Williams, 4; nine tied with 1

2019 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	373.9	9	7
Rushing	108.6	16	9
Passing	265.2	7	5
Scoring	28.6	T3	T2
Third Down %	41.9	11	6
Punt Returns	9.2	T6	3
Kick Returns	24.1	9	4

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	333.1	11	5
Rushing	91.3	4	3
Passing	241.8	20	10
Scoring	21.3	13	6
Interceptions	13	T12	T5
Sacks	51	3	2
Turnover Differential	+15	2	1

The Saints hope to balance out their air attack with an improved running game. They need to get Kamara going after he battled injuries in a down year.

All of which isn't even getting into the Saints' offensive line, which has played a massive (if unheralded) role in the team's offensive success over the years. New Orleans brings back four of the five starters from last year's team, including its two superb tackles, Ramczyk and Terron Armstead. Promising first-rounder Cesar Ruiz figures to slide into the starting spot vacated by Pro Bowler Larry Warford, whom the team released in May.

Cameron Jordan

Peter Brouillet

DEFENSE As much as New Orleans' football identity is tied to its offense, its defensive performance the last three years under coordinator Dennis Allen has been instrumental in the team's success — and there's no reason to expect that to change this year.

The Saints' 2020 defensive roster is deep at every turn. Each level of its defensive unit has at least one player who made either a Pro Bowl or an All-Pro roster last season, and most of the same cast from 2019 is back for another run.

Defensive end Cameron Jordan, who notched a career-best 15.5 sacks in 2019, is back to anchor a defensive line that is as deep as any the Saints have had in the Payton era. New Orleans also committed $27 million to bring back defensive tackle David Onyemata, a rising star on the Saints defense, for the next three seasons.

A familiar face has returned to patrol the deep part of the Saints secondary. Malcolm Jenkins, whom the Saints selected in the first round of the 2009 draft, signed on for his second tour of duty in New Orleans. The Saints need the three-time Pro Bowler to replace the playmaking ability of 2019 starter Vonn Bell, gone to Cincinnati as a free agent.

On the outside, the Saints might be able to claim one of the best 1-2 starting cornerback tandems in the NFL in Marshon Lattimore and Janoris Jenkins. Jenkins joined the team late last season on waivers, but he showed enough for the team to feel comfortable not re-signing Eli Apple.

The big question facing the Saints defense heading into this season is how well a few players can rebound from injuries. Defensive linemen Marcus Davenport and Sheldon Rankins have both flashed game-changing pass-rushing ability when healthy, but both have finished each of the last two seasons on injured reserve.

Two of the team's top linebackers, Alex Anzalone and Kiko Alonso, are also returning from injuries. Anzalone needed surgery on his shoulder that cut his 2019 season to two games — the second time he's played less than half a season in his three-year career — and Alonso suffered his third torn ACL of his career in the Wild Card loss to Minnesota.

SPECIALISTS If you're looking for a chink in the Saints armor here, you might want to look elsewhere. Kicker Wil Lutz earned his first career Pro Bowl nod in 2019 and trails only Justin Tucker in points scored since 2016 (553). Punter Thomas Morstead is entering his 12th season with the Saints and has averaged better than 46 yards per punt in eight of his last nine seasons. Snapping to both of them is Zach Wood, whom the Saints signed to a four-year extension this offseason. Deonte Harris injected life into what had been a moribund Saints return game since Darren Sproles left the organization in 2014.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Saints have owned the NFC South lately, clinching three straight division titles, but the division should become a bit tougher this season with the additions of Tom Brady and others in Tampa. New Orleans had to keep pace by keeping core players and adding talent in the areas that needed it, and it appears to have done so.

Will Brees continue to play at a high level? With his strong play the last several seasons, he has given no indication that he is slowing, but at 41, it is fair to wonder at what point Brees' age will begin to limit what he can do.

Meanwhile, New Orleans has surrounded him with one of the deepest and most talented rosters in the NFL, one that should be able to withstand a slight decline from Brees and still make another run at a Super Bowl title.

Scouting the Saints

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP NEW ORLEANS "Another season of heartbreak for the Saints, who have arguably the best roster in the NFL under the leadership of head coach Sean Payton and future Hall of Fame QB Drew Brees. Backup QB Teddy Bridgewater departed to Carolina, and Taysom Hill is a dynamic chess piece — but not their QB of the future. … Playmaker Alvin Kamara had another Pro Bowl season, and downhill RB Latavius Murray added quality depth for their backfield. All-Pro WR Michael Thomas played like his twitter handle, @Cantguardmike. TE Jared Cook had another Pro Bowl season, and the receiving unit got even better this offseason with the signing of WR Emmanuel Sanders, one of the best route runners in the NFL. … Terron Armstead and Ryan Ramczyk are the league's best OT duo, but they needed better consistency from the interior OL, so they drafted Cesar Ruiz in the first round. … They had a stout DL led by Pro Bowl DE Cameron Jordan, but they need DT Sheldon Rankins and DE Marcus Davenport to have a healthier season in order to reach their full potential as a defense. … LB Demario Davis was an All-Pro for the first time in his career after leading the team in tackles, but they need to find a durable starter because LB Alex Anzalone is injury prone. … They have Pro Bowl CB Marshon Lattimore and re-signed CB Janoris Jenkins, with solid depth in this unit. Safety Marcus Williams led the team with four interceptions, and Chauncey Gardner-Johnson is a versatile DB. They needed a veteran leader and signed enforcer Malcolm Jenkins. … Watch out for electric All-Pro returner Deonte Harris to have another big season. … Can they finally catch a break in the playoffs to give surgical QB Brees another shot in the Super Bowl?"

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
S	Malcolm Jenkins	Philadelphia
CB	Deatrick Nichols	XFL Houston
WR	Emmanuel Sanders	San Francisco
QB	Jameis Winston	Tampa Bay

KEY LOSSES −

POS.	PLAYER	2020 TEAM
CB	Eli Apple	Free Agent
S	Vonn Bell	Cincinnati
QB	Teddy Bridgewater	Carolina
LB	A.J. Klein	Buffalo
G	Larry Warfield	Free Agent

Offseason Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR	13	Michael Thomas	10	Tre'Quan Smith
WR	17	Emmanuel Sanders	11	Deonte Harris
LT	72	Terron Armstead	75	Andrus Peat
LG	75	Andrus Peat	62	Nick Easton
C	78	Erik McCoy	51	Cesar Ruiz (R)
RG	51	Cesar Ruiz (R)	64	Will Clapp
RT	71	Ryan Ramczyk	73	Ethan Greenidge
TE	87	Jared Cook	89	Josh Hill
QB	9	Drew Brees	2	Jameis Winston
RB	41	Alvin Kamara	28	Latavius Murray
FB	32	Michael Burton	30	Ricky Ortiz

DEFENSE

DE	94	Cameron Jordan	96	Carl Granderson
DT	93	David Onyemata	98	Sheldon Rankins
DT	90	Malcom Brown	99	Shy Tuttle
DE	92	Marcus Davenport	91	Trey Hendrickson
LB	56	Demario Davis	47	Alex Anzalone
LB	54	Kiko Alonso	53	Zack Baun (R)
CB	23	Marshon Lattimore	26	P.J. Williams
CB	20	Janoris Jenkins	35	Deatrick Nichols
NB	26	P.J. Williams	21	Patrick Robinson
SS	27	Malcolm Jenkins	22	C.J. Gardner-Johnson
FS	43	Marcus Williams	33	Saquan Hampton

SPECIALISTS

K	3	Wil Lutz	KR	11	Deonte Harris
P	6	Thomas Morstead	PR	11	Deonte Harris

2020 VETERAN SAINTS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
9	Brees, Drew	QB	6-0	209	19	Purdue	FA-LAC-06	D2-LAC-01
7	Hill, Taysom	QB	6-2	221	3	BYU	W-GB-17	FA-GB-17
2	Winston, Jameis	QB	6-4	231	5	Florida State	FA-TB-20	D1-TB-15
RUNNING BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
32	Burton, Michael	FB	6-0	240	5	Rutgers	FA-Was-20	D5-Det-15
41	Kamara, Alvin	RB	5-10	215	3	Tennessee	D3a-17	D3a-NO-17
44	Mizzell Sr., Taquan	RB	5-10	185	3	Virginia	FA-19	FA-Bal-17
28	Murray, Latavius	RB	6-3	230	7	Central Florida	FA-Min-19	D6b-LV-13
30	Ortiz, Ricky	FB	6-0	236	2	Oregon State	FA-19	FA-Bal-17
27	Washington, Dwayne	RB	6-1	223	4	Washington	FA-18	D7-Det-16
RECEIVERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
19	Butler, Emmanuel	WR	6-4	220	1	Northern Arizona	FA-19	FA-NO-19
87	Cook, Jared	TE	6-5	254	11	South Carolina	FA-LV-19	D3a-Ten-09
45	Griffin, Garrett	TE	6-4	240	3	Air Force	FA-16	FA-NO-16
11	Harris, Deonte	WR	5-6	170	1	Assumption	FA-19	FA-NO-19
16	Harris, Maurice	WR	6-3	205	3	California	FA-20	FA-Was-16
89	Hill, Josh	TE	6-5	250	7	Idaho State	FA-13	FA-NO-13
81	Hogan, Krishawn	WR	6-3	217	3	Marian	FA-19	FA-Ari-17
84	Humphrey, Lil'Jordan	WR	6-4	225	1	Texas	FA-19	FA-NO-19
15	Lewis, Tommylee	WR	5-7	168	3	Northern Illinois	FA-20	FA-NO-16
17	Sanders, Emmanuel	WR	5-11	180	10	SMU	FA-SF-20	D3-Pit-10
10	Smith, Tre'Quan	WR	6-2	210	2	UCF	D3-18	D3-NO-18
13	Thomas, Michael	WR	6-3	212	4	Ohio State	D2a-16	D2a-NO-16
86	Vander Laan, Jason	TE	6-3	245	2	Ferris State	FA-19	FA-NYJ-16
85	Wick, Cole	TE	6-6	257	2	Incarnate Word	FA-19	FA-Det-16
14	White, Tim	WR	5-10	185	1	Arizona State	FA-19	FA-Bal-17
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
72	Armstead, Terron	T	6-5	304	7	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	D3a-13	D3a-NO-13
64	Clapp, Will	C	6-5	311	2	LSU	D7-18	D7-NO-18
62	Easton, Nick	C/G	6-3	303	5	Harvard	FA-Min-19	FA-Bal-15
73	Greenidge, Ethan	OL	6-4	335	1	Villanova	FA-19	FA-NO-19
68	Kelly II, Derrick	OL	6-5	320	1	Florida State	FA-19	FA-NO-19
78	McCoy, Erik	C	6-4	303	1	Texas A&M	D2-19	D2-NO-19
70	Ola, Michael	T	6-5	312	6	Hampton	FA-18	FA-Mia-14
75	Peat, Andrus	G/T	6-7	316	5	Stanford	D1a-15	D1a-NO-15
71	Ramczyk, Ryan	T	6-6	314	3	Wisconsin	D1b-17	D1b-NO-17
63	Tom, Cameron	C	6-4	300	3	Southern Miss	FA-17	FA-NO-17
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
90	Brown, Malcom	DT	6-2	320	5	Texas	FA-NE-19	D1-NE-15
77	Dalton, Jalen	DT	6-6	300	1	North Carolina	FA-19	FA-Chi-19
92	Davenport, Marcus	DE	6-6	265	2	UTSA	D1-18	D1-NO-18
97	Edwards Jr., Mario	DE	6-3	280	5	Florida State	FA-NYG-19	D2-LV-15
96	Granderson, Carl	DE	6-5	261	1	Wyoming	FA-19	FA-NO-19
91	Hendrickson, Trey	DE	6-4	270	3	Florida Atlantic	D3c-17	D3c-NO-17
69	Hunt, Margus	DT	6-8	295	7	SMU	FA-Ind-20	D2b-Cin-13
94	Jordan, Cameron	DE	6-4	287	9	California	D1a-11	D1a-NO-11
70	Loewen, Mitchell	DE	6-5	285	3	Arkansas	FA-19	FA-NO-16
93	Onyemata, David	DT	6-4	300	4	Manitoba	D4-16	D4-NO-16
98	Rankins, Sheldon	DT	6-2	305	4	Louisville	D1-16	D1-NO-16
57	Spence, Noah	DE	6-2	251	4	Eastern Kentucky	FA-19	D2-TB-16
95	Stallworth, Taylor	DT	6-2	305	2	South Carolina	FA-18	FA-NO-18
99	Tuttle, Shy	DT	6-3	300	1	Tennessee	FA-19	FA-NO-19
LINEBACKERS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
54	Alonso, Kiko	LB	6-3	239	7	Oregon	T-Mia-19	D2-Buf-13
47	Anzalone, Alex	LB	6-3	241	3	Florida	D3b-17	D3b-NO-17
56	Davis, Demario	LB	6-2	248	8	Arkansas State	FA-NYJ-18	D3-NYJ-12
50	Dowell, Andrew	LB	6-1	225	1	Michigan State	FA-19	FA-Dal-19
55	Elliss, Kaden	LB	6-2	238	1	Idaho	D7b-19	D7b-NO-19
42	Hansen, Chase	LB	6-3	222	1	Utah	FA-19	FA-NO-19
52	Robertson, Craig	LB	6-1	234	8	North Texas	FA-Cle-16	FA-Cle-11
DEFENSIVE BACKS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
29	Bademosi, Johnson	CB	6-0	219	8	Stanford	FA-19	FA-Cle-12
22	Gardner-Johnson, C.J.	DB	5-11	210	1	Florida	D4-19	D4-NO-19
48	Gray, J.T.	DB	6-0	202	2	Mississippi State	FA-18	FA-NO-18
33	Hampton, Saquan	DB	6-1	206	1	Rutgers	D6-19	D6-NO-19
34	Hardee Sr., Justin	DB	6-1	200	3	Illinois	FA-17	FA-Hou-17
27	Jenkins, Malcolm	S	6-0	204	11	Ohio State	FA-Phi-20	D1-NO-09
20	Jenkins, Janoris	CB	5-10	190	8	North Alabama	W-NYG-19	D2b-LAR-12
31	Johnson, Chris	DB	6-3	200	1	North Alabama	FA-19	FA-Hou-19
23	Lattimore, Marshon	CB	6-0	192	3	Ohio State	D1a-17	D1a-NO-17
35	Nichols, Deatrick	CB	5-10	189	1	South Florida	FA-20	FA-Ari-18
21	Robinson, Patrick	CB	5-11	191	10	Florida State	FA-Phi-18	D1-NO-10
36	Swearinger Sr., D.J.	DB	5-10	205	7	South Carolina	FA-19	D2-Hou-13
43	Williams, Marcus	S	6-1	195	3	Utah	D2-17	D2-NO-17
26	Williams, P.J.	CB	6-0	196	5	Florida State	D3b-15	D3b-NO-15
SPECIALISTS		**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
3	Lutz, Wil	K	5-11	184	4	Georgia State	FA-16	FA-Bal-16
6	Morstead, Thomas	P	6-4	235	11	SMU	D5-09	D5-NO-09
49	Wood, Zach	LS	6-3	255	3	SMU	FA-17	FA-Dal-16

Saints *in the Draft* | Grade: B

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	**Cesar Ruiz**	**C/OG**	**6-4**	**316**	**Michigan**
3.	Zack Baun	LB	6-3	225	Wisconsin
3.	Adam Trautman	TE	6-5	255	Dayton
7.	Tommy Stevens	QB	6-5	235	Mississippi State

This draft class represents the Saints style. They drafted the player they thought was the best available in the first round, then maneuvered draft-day trades to move up for each of their next three picks. The result is a class that is short on numbers, but high in terms of value. The Cesar Ruiz selection was met with some arched eyebrows, as the Saints used their top pick on a college center last season and were set to bring back all five starting offensive linemen. But head coach Sean Payton indicated he was not drafting Ruiz strictly for depth, and in May the team released Larry Warford, opening up a spot for Ruiz. New Orleans had both Zack Baun and Adam Trautman rated in the top 40 in this draft class, which explains why they aggressively pursued both. Baun projects as a Mike linebacker who can add some pass-rushing skill when needed, and the Saints believed Trautman profiled as one of the draft's few true in-line tight ends. The Saints traded a future sixth rounder to get back into the draft late and select Tommy Stevens, a developmental QB with superior athletic ability. The move had Taysom Hill, Part Deux written all over it.

Outside the Huddle

MR. NEW ORLEANS The COVID-19 pandemic hit New Orleans and Louisiana particularly hard, and to help out, Drew Brees and his wife Brittany committed $5 million to provide meals to those in need across the state.

DANCE PARTY The last three seasons have resulted in a lot of wins, and the Saints know how to celebrate those. The team brought speakers, a smoke machine and lights on the road last season, turning visiting locker rooms into a sort of traveling night club after big road wins.

(EIGHTY-)ONE IS THE LONELIEST NUMBER A fun statistical peculiarity can be found on the back of an Alvin Kamara football card: He has recorded exactly 81 catches in each of his first three seasons. Kamara has more seasons with exactly 81 catches than any player in NFL history.

GRANDMA KNOWS BEST When it came to landing coveted free agent wideout Emmanuel Sanders, the Saints' ace recruiter came from Sanders' own family tree. After signing with the Saints in March, Sanders made it known his grandmother told him she was praying that's where he'd end up.

CAN'T GUARD MIKE Just how prolific has Michael Thomas been since he entered the NFL as a second-round pick in 2016? His 470 career receptions rank second in NFL history for a player in his first five seasons. The thing is, Thomas has played only four seasons. He needs just 12 catches to break Jarvis Landry's first-five-years mark.

THEY'RE GAMERS The most popular time-killing activity in the Saints locker room: multiplayer battles royale on the Nintendo 64 game "Super Smash Bros." Anecdotal evidence (a.k.a. whoever is on the system during interviews) suggests Cameron Jordan, Kiko Alonso and Craig Robertson are the team's best players.

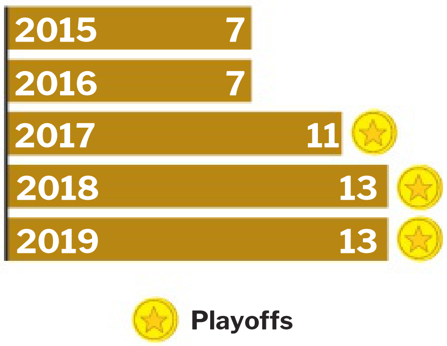
RESET THE CLOCK When the Saints moved up to acquire tight end Adam Trautman in the third round of the draft, he became the first player selected from the University of Dayton in more than 40 years.

SIGNATURE CANDY Earlier this year, Kamara debuted a new line of signature clothing on his personal website. But this is not his first foray into signature items: After Kamara showed his affinity for Airheads candy, the company branded a new flavor in his honor called "Watermelon Zoom" with Kamara's photo on the wrapper.

LIVING LEGACY If you see defensive lineman Mario Edwards Jr.'s name and start to wonder about Mario Edwards Sr., there might be a reason. His father enjoyed a solid five-year NFL career with the Buccaneers and Cowboys. Saints head coach Sean Payton was an assistant on the 2003 Cowboys team that included Edwards Sr.

ASSUME NOTHING One of the better stories on the Saints stacked roster: return specialist Deonte Harris. The Saints unearthed the 5'6" Harris last year as an undrafted rookie from Division II Assumption College, and he repaid them by earning both All-Pro and Pro Bowl honors as a return specialist. Harris holds the NCAA record (regardless of division) as college football's all-time leader for combined touchdown returns with 14.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



NUMBERS TO KNOW

71

New Orleans allowed only 71 rushing first downs last year, second fewest in the NFL behind Tampa Bay.

33.6

The Saints had the best starting field position on offense in the NFL, averaging a start on their own 33.6-yard line.

4.2

New Orleans turned the ball over on a league-low 4.2 percent of their offensive possessions.

Tim Clark

Tampa Bay BUCCANEERS

NFC South Forecast: 2

THE ORGANIZATION

Owner/Co-Chairmen: Bryan Glazer, Edward Glazer, Joel Glazer
Owner: Darcie Glazer Kassewitz
General Manager: Jason Licht
Director of Player Personnel: John Spytek
Stadium: Raymond James Stadium (65,890)
Surface: Grass
Website: www.buccaneers.com
Tickets: 866-582-BUCS (2827)
Training Camp: One Buccaneer Place (Tampa, Fla.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Bruce Arians
Record With Team: 7-9
Career Record: 56-39-1
Offensive Coordinator: Byron Leftwich
Defensive Coordinator: Todd Bowles
Special Teams Coordinator: Keith Armstrong
Assistant Head Coach/Run Game Coordinator: Harold Goodwin
Quarterbacks: Clyde Christensen
Running Backs: Todd McNair
Wide Receivers: Kevin Garver
Tight Ends: Rick Christophel
Offensive Line: Joe Gilbert
Defensive Line: Kacy Rodgers
Inside Linebackers: Mike Caldwell
Outside Linebackers: Larry Foote
Cornerbacks: Kevin Ross
Safeties: Nick Rapone

A few days after Tom Brady arrived in Tampa, he navigated his way from the waterfront Davis Islands mansion he is renting from Derek Jeter to a house owned by Bucs offensive coordinator Byron Leftwich. Brady carried a couple duffel bags through the door and stood in the entrance for a minute before his senses told him to signal timeout.

He wasn't in Leftwich's house. It was the one next door belonging to a neighbor, David Kramer. "I literally was just sitting here, and I watch this tall guy just walk into my house," Kramer said. "He just like dropped his duffel bags down on the floor and just kind of like looked up at me, and I'll never forget the look on his face."

Brady's decision to go a different direction and leave the Patriots after 20 seasons to join the Bucs won't be without some moments of confusion or anxiety.

Nevertheless, at 42, he didn't merely pack his family and six Super Bowl rings and head south. The team he chose hasn't reached the playoffs since the 2007 season. But he's well equipped for the transition. He has the use of a pair of 1,100-yard receivers in Mike Evans and Chris Godwin to go with tight ends O.J. Howard and Cameron Brate. And a couple of days before the NFL draft, the Bucs traded for the rights to Rob Gronkowski.

OFFENSE Head coach Bruce Arians' "no risk it, no biscuit," scheme applies to his penchant for having his quarterbacks take a lot of shots downfield. That's not necessarily Brady's game, but there are good reasons why Brady was attracted to the Bucs: Arians' reputation for coaching elite quarterbacks such as Ben Roethlisberger, Peyton Manning, Andrew Luck and Carson Palmer; and the team's target-rich environment. Evans and Randy Moss are the only two receivers to start their careers with six straight 1,000-yard seasons. Godwin also made the Pro Bowl last season with 86 catches for 1,333 yards and nine touchdowns.

Tampa Bay drafted Minnesota receiver Tyler Johnson, who may not be a burner but makes big plays. Johnson had 204 yards receiving and two TDs in the Outback Bowl.

Luring Gronkowski out of retirement will provide a security blanket for Brady but also should raise the level of play by Howard and Brate. Expect the Bucs to use more 12 personnel — one running back and two tight ends — something Brady did well with the Patriots with Gronkowski and Aaron Hernandez.

The Bucs have an explosive running back in Ronald Jones II, but he's not much help in the passing game. To that end, the Bucs selected Vanderbilt running back Ke'Shawn Vaughn. "Aw, man! I can't tell you how long I was waiting on that one," Arians says about waiting to take Vaughn in the third round. "I was shaking on that one."

Over the past five seasons, Brady has completed more than 100 passes per year to his running backs.

The offensive line will be helped by Brady's quick release and decision-making, but Iowa rookie Tristan Wirfs must hold up at right tackle, where he'll be plugged in immediately. The Bucs allowed 47 sacks last season, partly due to Jameis Winston holding the ball too long.

It may take some time, but sooner or later the Bucs will adapt to Brady, who still is pretty good at hitting the home run ball. According to ESPN Stats & Info, last season Brady completed 43 percent of his passes that traveled at least 20 yards downfield, which ranked seventh among quarterbacks. His seven deep touchdowns were his most since 2006.

2020 SCHEDULE

2019 NFL RANKINGS

Date	Opponent	Time	2019 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 13	at New Orleans	4:25	13-3	373.9 (9)	333.1 (11)	28.6 (t3)	21.3 (13)
Sept. 20	Carolina	1:00	5-11	341.8 (19)	374.5 (23)	21.2 (20)	29.4 (31)
Sept. 27	at Denver	4:25	7-9	298.6 (28)	337.0 (12)	17.6 (28)	19.8 (10)
Oct. 4	L.A. Chargers	1:00	5-11	367.4 (10)	313.1 (6)	21.1 (21)	21.6 (14)
Oct. 8	at Chicago (Thu.)	8:20	8-8	296.8 (29)	324.1 (8)	17.5 (29)	18.6 (4)
Oct. 18	Green Bay	4:25	13-3	345.5 (18)	352.6 (18)	23.5 (15)	19.6 (9)
Oct. 25	at Las Vegas	8:20	7-9	363.7 (11)	354.8 (19)	19.6 (24)	26.2 (24)
Nov. 2	at N.Y. Giants (Mon.)	8:15	4-12	338.5 (23)	377.3 (25)	21.3 (t18)	28.2 (30)
Nov. 8	New Orleans	8:20	13-3	373.9 (9)	333.1 (11)	28.6 (t3)	21.3 (13)
Nov. 15	at Carolina	1:00	5-11	341.8 (19)	374.5 (23)	21.2 (20)	29.4 (31)
Nov. 23	L.A. Rams (Mon.)	8:15	9-7	374.9 (7)	339.6 (13)	24.6 (11)	22.8 (17)
Nov. 29	Kansas City	4:25	12-4	379.2 (6)	349.6 (17)	28.2 (5)	19.2 (7)
BYE							
Dec. 13	Minnesota	1:00	10-6	353.5 (16)	341.6 (14)	25.4 (8)	18.9 (t5)
Dec. 20	at Atlanta	1:00	7-9	379.7 (5)	355.8 (20)	23.8 (13)	24.9 (23)
Dec.26/27	at Detroit	TBD	3-12-1	346.8 (17)	400.4 (31)	21.3 (t18)	26.4 (26)
Jan. 3	Atlanta	1:00	7-9	379.7 (5)	355.8 (20)	23.8 (13)	24.9 (23)

Mike Evans

WIDE RECEIVER

2019 RESULTS
(7-9)

Sept.	8	San Francisco	L	17-31
Sept.	12	at Carolina	W	20-14
Sept.	22	N.Y Giants	L	31-32
Sept.	29	at L.A. Rams	W	55-40
Oct.	6	at New Orleans	L	24-31
Oct.	13	Carolina	L	26-37
Oct.	27	at Tennessee	L	23-27
Nov.	3	at Seattle (ot)	L	34-40
Nov.	10	Arizona	W	30-27
Nov.	17	New Orleans	L	17-34
Nov.	24	at Atlanta	W	35-22
Dec.	1	at Jacksonville	W	28-11
Dec.	8	Indianapolis	W	38-35
Dec.	15	at Detroit	W	38-17
Dec.	21	Houston	L	20-23
Dec.	29	Atlanta (ot)	L	22-28

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Jameis Winston	626	380	5,109	33	30

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Ronald Jones II	172	724	4.2	6
Peyton Barber	154	470	3.1	6
Jameis Winston	59	250	4.2	1

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Chris Godwin	86	1,333	15.5	9
Mike Evans	67	1,157	17.3	8
Breshad Perriman	36	645	17.9	6
Cameron Brate	36	311	8.6	4
Dare Ogunbowale	35	286	8.2	0
O.J. Howard	34	459	13.5	1

KICKING: Matt Gay, 27-35 FGs, 43-48 PAT, 124 points

TACKLES: Lavonte David, 123; Devin White, 91

SACKS: Shaquil Barrett, 19.5; Jason Pierre-Paul, 8.5

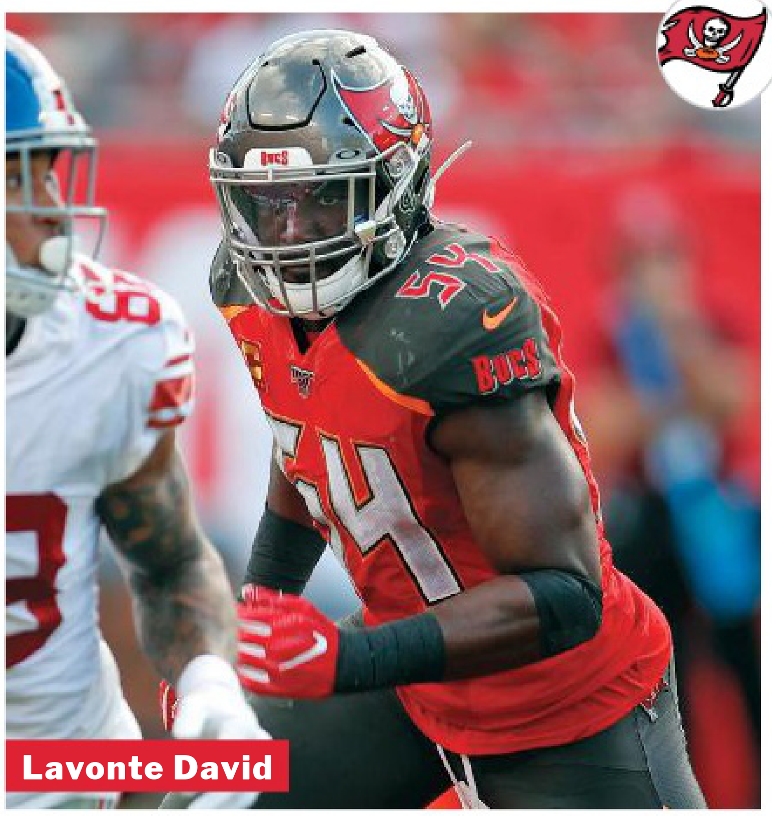
INTERCEPTIONS: Sean Murphy-Bunting, 3; Jamel Dean, 2

2019 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	397.9	3	2
Rushing	95.1	24	13
Passing	302.8	1	1
Scoring	28.6	T3	T2
Third Down %	41.5	13	7
Punt Returns	5.2	29	14
Kick Returns	19.8	28	14

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	343.9	15	8
Rushing	73.8	1	1
Passing	270.1	30	14
Scoring	28.1	29	14
Interceptions	12	T17	T8
Sacks	47	T7	6
Turnover Differential	-13	28	14

Evans: AP Photo/Mark LoMoglio; David: W.E. Smith III


Lavonte David

DEFENSE Shaquil Barrett led the NFL in sacks with 19.5, forced six fumbles and earned his first trip to the Pro Bowl last season. Not bad for a guy who had only one other workout in free agency (with the Cincinnati Bengals) before signing a one-year, $4 million deal with the Bucs in 2019. The Bucs used their franchise tag on Barrett, guaranteeing him a one-year contract worth at least $16 million.

What helped Barrett was the return of outside linebacker Jason Pierre-Paul. After missing six weeks with a cervical fracture, JPP registered 8.5 sacks in 10 weeks. He signed a two-year deal to return in 2020.

With Ndamukong Suh, back on a one-year deal, and defensive tackle Vita Vea, the Bucs are tough to run against. Defensive coordinator Todd Bowles' defense was No. 1 against the run last season, allowing 73.8 yards per game. It's important in a division that features running backs like Carolina's Christian McCaffrey, the Saints' Alvin Kamara and the Falcons' Todd Gurley II (formerly of the Rams). None of those backs eclipsed the 100-yard rushing mark in a combined five games against the Bucs last season.

However, the Bucs aren't very deep up front. Rookie defensive tackle Khalil Davis will add some speed and athleticism inside in a rotation with William Gholston.

Linebacker Devin White got off to a slow start. The fifth overall pick in the 2019 NFL Draft played his first pro game with tonsillitis and then suffered a hamstring injury. However, he returned with a vengeance, finishing with 91 tackles, 2.5 sacks, one interception, three forced fumbles and four fumble recoveries, including two returned for scores.

Bowles believes in a pressure defense. When healthy, White can be used in a lot more blitz situations because veteran linebacker Lavonte David is so good at covering ground. David is maybe the most underrated defensive player in the league.

The front seven is the strength of the defense, but the Bucs have length at cornerback in Carlton Davis III and Jamel Dean. Together they combined for 26 passes defended, the most of any duo in the league.

Bowles loves to play man coverage, freeing up others to blitz from all angles. Safeties Mike Edwards and Jordan Whitehead have good range and instincts, but they can't catch the football. A huge upgrade arrived with the drafting of Minnesota's Antoine Winfield Jr. Like his father, who played 14 years in the NFL, Winfield is a joker-type player for Bowles who can play center field, hold up at the point in the running game or blitz. Arians says he reminds him of Tyrann Mathieu or Budda Baker. The Bucs could use another playmaker in the back end with Drew Brees, Matt Ryan and Teddy Bridgewater gunning for them.

In a division ruled three straight years by the Saints and Brees, this has to be the year the Bucs get back to their identity of dominating on defense.

SPECIALISTS This is not an area of strength for Arians' team. Placekicker Matt Gay has one of the strongest legs in the NFL and tied for third for the most field goals of 50 yards or more with five as a rookie. He's an automatic touchback when used on kickoffs. Unfortunately, he may also have cost the Bucs two games with key misses. While Gay's ceiling is very high, he needs to avoid the catastrophic games where he misses in bunches.

Punter Bradley Pinion had a 43.2-yard average, and 90.7 percent of his kickoffs went for touchbacks. Meanwhile, the Bucs didn't get very much from their return game. T.J. Logan did some nice things before a season-ending injury, but the Bucs have to get better in all areas. To that end, Winfield should be a big asset. The Bucs will give Dare Ogunbowale a chance to handle kickoffs, but he will be challenged by speedy receiver Scotty Miller.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Bucs became instant contenders in the NFC with the signing of Brady and are expected to break their streak of 12 seasons without making the playoffs, second longest only to the Browns. Brady has a cache of weapons and a familiar target in Gronkowski. Brady will protect the football, but will the Bucs be able to protect Brady? If so, this Last Dance could be at Raymond James Stadium in Super Bowl LV.

2020 VETERAN BUCS ROSTER

	QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
12	Brady, Tom	QB	6-4	225	20	Michigan	FA-NE-20	D6b-NE-00
11	Gabbert, Blaine	QB	6-5	235	9	Missouri	FA-Ten-19	D1-Jac-11
4	Griffin, Ryan	QB	6-5	210	6	Tulane	W-NO-15	FA-NO-13
	RUNNING BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
27	Jones II, Ronald	RB	5-11	208	2	USC	D2a-18	D2a-TB-18
22	Logan, T.J.	RB	5-11	195	3	North Carolina	W-Ari-19	D5b-Ari-17
44	Ogunbowale, Dare	RB	5-11	205	1	Wisconsin	FA-18	FA-Hou-17
23	Ware, Aca'Cedric	RB	6-0	205	1	USC	FA-19	FA-Ind-19
	RECEIVERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
82	Auclair, Antony	TE	6-6	256	3	Laval	FA-17	FA-TB-17
84	Brate, Cameron	TE	6-5	245	5	Harvard	FA-15	FA-TB-14
13	Evans, Mike	WR	6-5	231	6	Texas A&M	D1-14	D1-TB-14
14	Godwin, Chris	WR	6-1	209	3	Penn State	D3a-17	D3a-TB-17
15	Grayson, Cyril	WR	5-9	183	1	LSU	FA-19	FA-Sea-17
87	Gronkowski, Rob	TE	6-6	268	9	Arizona	T-NE-20	D2a-NE-10
80	Howard, O.J.	TE	6-6	251	3	Alabama	D1-17	D1-TB-17
88	Hudson, Tanner	TE	6-5	239	1	Southern Arkansas	FA-18	FA-TB-18
81	Leggett, Jordan	TE	6-5	258	3	Clemson	W-NYJ-19	D5a-NYJ-17
86	McElroy, Codey	TE	6-6	258	1	SE Oklahoma St.	FA-19	FA-LAR-18
85	Mickens, Jaydon	WR	5-11	170	3	Washington	FA-19	FA-LV-16
10	Miller, Scotty	WR	5-9	174	1	Bowling Green	D6-19	D6-TB-19
16	Mitchell, Bryant	WR	6-2	198	1	Northwestern State	FA-19	FA-Ari-19
83	Schnell, Spencer	WR	5-8	180	1	Illinois State	FA-19	FA-TB-19
17	Watson, Justin	WR	6-3	215	2	Pennsylvania	D5-18	D5-TB-18
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
61	Bailey, Zack	G	6-5	299	1	South Carolina	FA-19	FA-TB-19
65	Cappa, Alex	G	6-6	305	2	Humboldt State	D3-18	D3-TB-18
77	Fabiano, Anthony	C	6-4	303	1	Harvard	FA-19	FA-Bal-16
73	Haeg, Joe	T/G	6-6	298	4	North Dakota St.	FA-Ind-20	D5-Ind-16
66	Jensen, Ryan	C	6-4	319	6	Colorado St.-Pueblo	FA-Bal-18	D6-Bal-13
74	Marpet, Ali	G	6-4	307	5	Hobart	D2b-15	D2b-TB-15
62	Seaton, Brad	T	6-9	330	1	Villanova	FA-19	D7-Ten-17
76	Smith, Donovan	T	6-6	338	5	Penn State	D2a-15	D2a-TB-15
64	Stinnie, Aaron	G	6-3	312	2	James Madison	W-Ten-19	FA-Ten-18
72	Wells, Josh	T	6-6	306	6	James Madison	FA-19	FA-Jac-14
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
92	Gholston, William	DL	6-6	281	7	Michigan State	D4b-13	D4b-TB-13
95	Ledbetter, Jeremiah	DL	6-3	295	2	Arkansas	FA-18	D6-Det-17
56	Nuñez-Roches, Rakeem	DL	6-2	307	5	Southern Miss	FA-18	D6-KC-15
79	O'Connor, Patrick	DL	6-4	270	1	Eastern Michigan	FA-17	D7-Det-17
93	Suh, Ndamukong	DL	6-4	313	10	Nebraska	FA-LAR-19	D1a-Det-10
50	Vea, Vita	DL	6-4	347	2	Washington	D1-18	D1-TB-18
	LINEBACKERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
58	Barrett, Shaquil	OLB	6-2	250	6	Colorado State	FA-Den-19	FA-Den-14
	Beckwith, Kendell	LB	6-2	243	2	LSU	D3b-17	D3b-TB-17
57	Bell, Quinton	OLB	6-4	253	1	Prairie View A&M	FA-19	D7-LV-19
48	Cichy, Jack	ILB	6-2	238	2	Wisconsin	D6-18	D6-TB-18
41	Daniels, Kahzin	OLB	6-4	240	1	Charleston	FA-19	FA-TB-19
54	David, Lavonte	ILB	6-1	233	8	Nebraska	D2-12	D2-TB-12
52	Dawkins, Noah	ILB	6-1	235	1	The Citadel	FA-19	FA-Cin-19
51	Minter, Kevin	ILB	6-0	246	7	LSU	FA-18	D2-Ari-13
98	Nelson, Anthony	OLB	6-7	271	1	Iowa	D4-19	D4-TB-19
90	Pierre-Paul, Jason	OLB	6-5	275	10	South Florida	T-NYG-18	D1-NYG-10
45	White, Devin	ILB	6-0	237	1	LSU	D1-19	D1-TB-19
	DEFENSIVE BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
39	Adams, Andrew	S	5-11	202	4	Connecticut	FA-19	FA-NYG-16
33	Davis III, Carlton	CB	6-1	206	2	Auburn	D2c-18	D2c-TB-18
35	Dean, Jamel	CB	6-1	206	1	Auburn	D3a-19	D3a-TB-19
38	Dixon, D'Cota	S	5-10	204	1	Wisconsin	FA-19	FA-TB-19
34	Edwards, Mike	S	5-10	205	1	Kentucky	D3b-19	D3b-TB-19
21	Evans, Justin	S	6-0	199	3	Texas A&M	D2-17	D2-TB-17
32	Hall, Deiondre'	CB	6-2	206	3	Northern Iowa	FA-20	D4-Chi-16
28	Miller, Herb	DB	6-2	190	1	Florida Atlantic	FA-19	FA-KC-19
23	Murphy-Bunting, Sean	CB	6-0	195	1	Central Michigan	D2-19	D2-TB-19
29	Smith, Ryan	CB	5-11	189	4	N. Carolina Central	D4-16	D4-TB-16
36	Stewart, M.J.	DB	5-11	200	2	North Carolina	D2b-18	D2b-TB-18
33	Whitehead, Jordan	S	5-10	198	2	Pittsburgh	D4-18	D4-TB-18
37	Wilkins, Mazzi	CB	6-0	191	1	South Florida	FA-19	FA-TB-19
	SPECIALISTS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
2	Fry, Elliott	K	6-0	189	1	South Carolina	W-Car-20	FA-Chi-19
9	Gay, Matt	K	6-0	232	1	Utah	D5-19	D5-TB-19
8	Pinion, Bradley	P	6-5	229	5	Clemson	FA-SF-19	D5-SF-15
97	Triner, Zach	LS	6-3	245	1	Assumption	FA-19	FA-NYJ-17

Scouting the Bucs

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP TAMPA BAY "Head coach and QB guru Bruce Arians landed the greatest QB of all time in Tom Brady and a future Hall of Famer in TE Rob Gronkowski, making the Buccaneers an early NFC Super Bowl favorite. Having a top-three passing offense with an arsenal of playmakers, it was evident that the team's 7–9 record was linked to QB Jameis Winston's egregious turnovers. This is arguably the best WR duo with Mike Evans and Chris Godwin, who combined for 17 TDs. And the TE unit features O.J. Howard, Cameron Brate and now Gronk. They have elusive RB Ronald Jones II but needed more depth, so they drafted RB Ke'Shawn Vaughn. … This is an above-average starting OL, but they didn't re-sign RT Demar Dotson and filled that void with first-round draft pick Tristan Wirfs. Defensively, they have some talented players, but the unit was average in defensive coordinator Todd Bowles' first season. They found a star in edge Shaquil Barrett, who was the NFL sack leader with 19.5 and broke the franchise's single-season record. They re-signed edge Jason Pierre-Paul and tenacious DT Ndamukong Suh to pair back with NT Vita Vea and collapse the pocket. … They have an underrated ILB unit with veteran leader Lavonte David, who led the team with 123 tackles, and Devin White, who had a promising rookie season. … Carlton Davis III, Jamel Dean and Sean Murphy-Bunting are a young CB group that GM Jason Licht is optimistic about. Safeties Jordan Whitehead, Justin Evans and Mike Edwards have upside as well, but drafting Antoine Winfield Jr. shows that they felt an upgrade was needed. … Kicker Matt Gay is a weapon. … With Tampa hosting the Super Bowl, the QB with the most championship rings would like to participate."

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS ✚

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
QB	Tom Brady	New England
TE	Rob Gronkowski	Retired
OL	Joe Haeg	Indianapolis

KEY LOSSES −

POS.	PLAYER	2020 TEAM
DT	Beau Allen	New England
RB	Peyton Barber	Washington
OT	Demar Dotson	Free Agent
WR	Breshad Perriman	N.Y. Jets
QB	Jameis Winston	New Orleans

Offseason Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR	13	Mike Evans	18	Tyler Johnson (R)
WR	14	Chris Godwin	17	Justin Watson
LT	76	Donovan Smith	62	Brad Seaton
LG	74	Ali Marpet	61	Zack Bailey
C	66	Ryan Jensen	77	Anthony Fabiano
RG	65	Alex Cappa	64	Aaron Stinnie
RT	78	Tristan Wirfs (R)	73	Joe Haeg
TE	87	Rob Gronkowski	84	Cameron Brate
TE	80	O.J. Howard	82	Antony Auclair
QB	12	Tom Brady	11	Blaine Gabbert
RB	27	Ronald Jones II	30	Ke'Shawn Vaughn (R)

DEFENSE

DE	93	Ndamukong Suh	56	Rakeem Nuñez-Roches
NT	50	Vita Vea	94	Khalil Davis (R)
DE	92	William Gholston	95	Jeremiah Ledbetter
WLB	90	Jason Pierre-Paul	41	Kahzin Daniels
ILB	45	Devin White	51	Kevin Minter
ILB	54	Lavonte David	48	Jack Cichy
SLB	58	Shaquil Barrett	98	Anthony Nelson
CB	33	Carlton Davis III	35	Jamel Dean
CB	23	Sean Murphy-Bunting	36	M.J. Stewart
SS	31	Antoine Winfield Jr. (R)	26	Andrew Adams
FS	33	Jordan Whitehead	34	Mike Edwards

SPECIALISTS

K	9	Matt Gay	KR 44	Dare Ogunbowale
P	8	Bradley Pinion	PR 10	Scotty Miller

AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall

Bucs *in the Draft* | Grade: B+

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	**Tristan Wirfs**	**OT**	**6-5**	**320**	**Iowa**
2.	Antoine Winfield Jr.	S	5-9	203	Minnesota
3.	Ke'Shawn Vaughn	RB	5-10	214	Vanderbilt
5.	Tyler Johnson	WR	6-2	206	Minnesota
6.	Khalil Davis	DT	6-1	308	Nebraska
7.	Chapelle Russell	LB	6-2	236	Temple
7.	Raymond Calais	RB	5-8	188	Louisiana

The Bucs checked some major boxes with this draft class. They needed a plug-and-play right tackle and got him in Tristan Wirfs by dealing a fourth-round pick to the 49ers to move up one spot to No. 13 (and also pick up another seventh rounder). Wirfs will benefit from the pro-style offense deployed by the Hawkeyes. The Bucs passed on some good running backs to take Antoine Winfield Jr. He's the seventh defensive back Tampa Bay has selected in three years, but Bruce Arians sees him as a joker-type safety in the mold of Tyrann Mathieu or Budda Baker. Ke'Shawn Vaughn could catch 50 passes from Brady and is an explosive runner who had two 1,000-yard seasons in the SEC. The steal may have been Tyler Johnson, who caught Arians' eye during the Outback Bowl in Tampa, where he had 204 yards receiving and two TDs. The Bucs compare Raymond Calais to Dolphins RB Matt Breida.

Outside the Huddle

IS THIS HEAVEN? The Tampa Bay front office personnel had a code name for their dogged pursuit of Patriots quarterback Tom Brady: Operation Shoeless Joe Jackson. Why? Because the greatest quarterback of all time leaving the Patriots to rescue the most losing franchise in major sports with a .387 winning percentage is as unlikely as legendary White Sox hitter Joe Jackson walking out of a cornfield onto a baseball diamond in Iowa. The name was hatched by John Spytek, the Bucs' director of player personnel and a former teammate of Brady's for one season at Michigan. Oh, and Spytek is also a huge fan of the movie "Field of Dreams." "If we build it, he will come," Spytek used to tell general manager Jason Licht, repeating the famous lines from the 1989 movie. "Go the distance."

WELCOME TO TOMPA Not that it took too long for Brady to figure this out, but TB12 in TB was a marketing marriage made in heaven. Shortly after signing with the Bucs, Brady applied for trademarks that included TB X TB, Tompa Bay and Tampa Brady. Brady will expand his TB12 workout franchise to Tampa soon.

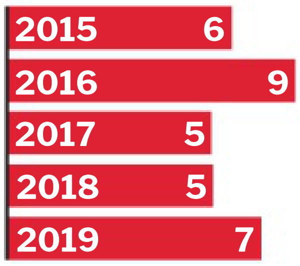
UNIFORMITY While it's too early to tell whether they will give the Bucs a boost in the standings, the team's new uniforms already have given the franchise a considerable bump in at least one ranking. Considered one of the worst uniform designs in the league a year ago, the Bucs' togs jumped 15 spots to No. 11 in *Sporting News*' 2020 NFL uniform rankings. It was easily the biggest climb for any team in the league. Gone are the two-toned tops and alarm clock numbers. They've been replaced by a cleaner, block lettered look that is a throwback to the Super Bowl XXXVII champion days. The Bucs also added a new all-pewter color rush scheme.

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON Antoine Winfield Jr. played his last collegiate game at Raymond James Stadium as his Minnesota Golden Gophers defeated the Auburn Tigers in the Outback Bowl. The Bucs are excited to get Winfield, whose dad played 14 seasons in the NFL — nine with Minnesota and five with Buffalo. In fact, Winfield Sr. intercepted Brady in 2001, Brady's first year as a starter for the Patriots. It was one of the elder Winfield's 27 career interceptions.

FAMILIAR NAME Minnesota rookie wide receiver Tyler Johnson was thrilled to be drafted by the Bucs, as he joins a receiving corps that includes Mike Evans and Chris Godwin. But he will have some big skates to fill to become the leading scorer among Tyler Johnsons in Tampa Bay. That distinction currently belongs to Tampa Bay Lightning center Tyler Johnson, who has 153 career goals.

CUTTING WEIGHT Tristan Wirfs has incredible physical gifts for a 6'5", 320-pound offensive lineman. He was a state champion in Iowa in the shot put, discus and wrestling. But Wirfs had to make some big sacrifices to get on the mat. In fact, in order to wrestle his senior year, he had to lose 40 pounds. He did it by eating a very restrictive diet — a small shake for breakfast and grapes the rest of the day.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



NUMBERS TO KNOW

43.4

The Bucs blitzed on 43.4 percent of opponent dropbacks in 2019, second highest in the league behind only the Ravens.

7

Tampa had a league-high seven interceptions returned for TDs against them, almost doubling up second-place Cincinnati.

10.5

Jameis Winston's average intended air yards per attempt of 10.5 was the second highest among qualifying quarterbacks.

Arizona CARDINALS

NFC West Forecast: 4

THE ORGANIZATION

Owners: Bidwill Family
President/Chairman: Michael J. Bidwill
General Manager: Steve Keim
Senior Personnel Executive: Terry McDonough
Stadium: State Farm Stadium (63,400)
Surface: Grass
Website: www.azcardinals.com
Tickets: 602-379-0102
Training Camp: State Farm Stadium (Glendale, Ariz.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Kliff Kingsbury
Record With Team: 5–10-1
Career Record: 5–10-1
Defensive Coordinator: Vance Joseph
Assistant Head Coach/Special Teams Coordinator: Jeff Rodgers
Pass Game Coordinator/Quarterbacks: Tom Clements
Running Backs: James Saxon
Wide Receivers: David Raih
Tight Ends: Steve Heiden
Offensive Line: Sean Kugler
Defensive Line: Brentson Buckner
Linebackers: Bill Davis
Outside Linebackers: Charlie Bullen
Defensive Backs: Marcus Robertson
Cornerbacks: Greg Williams

Time has a way of changing perceptions, and in the case of the Arizona Cardinals, the perceptions of the franchise couldn't be more different today than they were only one year ago.

Remember when their general manager was on the hot seat, their new head coach wasn't deserving of the role because he had a losing record in college where he got fired by his alma mater, and the quarterback was supposedly too small to make it in the NFL? Steve Keim, Kliff Kingsbury and Kyler Murray have everyone singing a different tune in 2020, and with good reason, too.

Keim not only pulled off the move of the NFL offseason by acquiring superstar wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins in a trade with the Texans, but he also helped rebuild a decimated defense with key additions through free agency and the draft. Kingsbury's offense finally got off the ground and showed its potential, and now he's got even more weapons with which to work. And as for Murray, all the former No. 1 overall pick did was set a bunch of team records on his way to winning Offensive Rookie of the Year honors with the expectation and promise to be even better in his second year.

"I can't wait for the season to start," Murray says. "We're going to do some damage."

OFFENSE Murray became just the second rookie quarterback in history to pass for at least 3,500 yards and rush for 500 or more yards, and he proved he could stay healthy, starting all 16 games and not missing any time until a sore hamstring knocked him out of the second half of a Week 16 game at Seattle. With a full year now under his belt and less unfamiliarity to deal with, some seasoned NFL analysts predict that Murray can take a second-season leap the way Patrick Mahomes and Lamar Jackson did and make a run at league MVP.

That scenario might not be so hard to fathom considering how Keim helped his young quarterback by addressing a handful of critical areas on offense. It started in January with the return of future Hall of Fame receiver Larry Fitzgerald on a one-year deal and catapulted in March with the blockbuster trade for Hopkins, who has averaged 90 catches, 1,200 receiving yards and eight touchdowns per year during his first seven NFL seasons. Murray now has three top-notch receiving targets in Hopkins, Fitzgerald and Christian Kirk, the former second-round pick who continues to trend upward.

Dual-threat running back Kenyan Drake, who was brilliant in Arizona following his midseason trade from the Dolphins, signed a one-year transition tag deal and adds even more credibility to Kingsbury's up-tempo spread offense. Drake now essentially gets the entire backfield to himself in 2020 to showcase his slashing running style, pass-catching abilities and speed separation skills. Add them all up, and it figures to make it nearly impossible for opposing defenses to account for everyone lining up in Kingsbury's no-huddle offense.

The Air Raid looks to be more than ready for liftoff.

As with any offense, though, it all starts up front with the Cardinals' offensive line, and Keim didn't neglect to strengthen that unit, either. He re-signed starting left tackle D.J. Humphries to a three-year extension and found a capable starter to plug in on the right side — three of them, in fact, with veteran Marcus Gilbert, last year's primary starter, Justin Murray and third-round pick Josh Jones. Jones figures to be the long-term answer eventually, but Gilbert will anchor the right side after missing all of last season with

2020 SCHEDULE

2019 NFL RANKINGS

Date	Opponent	Time	2019 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 13	at San Francisco	4:25	13-3	381.1 (4)	281.8 (2)	29.9 (2)	19.4 (8)
Sept. 20	Washington	4:05	3-13	274.7 (31)	385.1 (27)	16.6 (32)	27.2 (27)
Sept. 27	Detroit	4:25	3-12-1	346.8 (17)	400.4 (31)	21.3 (t18)	26.4 (26)
Oct. 4	at Carolina	1:00	5-11	341.8 (19)	374.5 (23)	21.2 (20)	29.4 (31)
Oct. 11	at N.Y. Jets	1:00	7-9	273.0 (32)	323.1 (7)	17.2 (31)	22.4 (16)
Oct. 19	at Dallas (Mon.)	8:15	8-8	431.5 (1)	327.0 (9)	27.1 (6)	20.1 (11)
Oct. 25	Seattle	4:05	11-5	374.4 (8)	381.6 (26)	25.3 (9)	24.9 (22)
BYE							
Nov. 8	Miami	4:25	5-11	310.0 (27)	397.8 (30)	19.1 (25)	30.9 (32)
Nov. 15	Buffalo	4:05	10-6	330.2 (24)	298.3 (3)	19.6 (23)	16.2 (2)
Nov. 19	at Seattle (Thu.)	8:20	11-5	374.4 (8)	381.6 (26)	25.3 (9)	24.9 (22)
Nov. 29	at New England	1:00	12-4	354.0 (15)	275.9 (1)	26.2 (7)	14.1 (1)
Dec. 6	L.A. Rams	4:05	9-7	374.9 (7)	339.6 (13)	24.6 (11)	22.8 (17)
Dec. 13	at N.Y. Giants	1:00	4-12	338.5 (23)	377.3 (25)	21.3 (t18)	28.2 (30)
Dec. 20	Philadelphia	4:05	9-7	360.8 (14)	331.7 (10)	24.1 (12)	22.1 (15)
Dec.26/27	San Francisco	TBD	13-3	381.1 (4)	281.8 (2)	29.9 (2)	19.4 (8)
Jan. 3	at L.A. Rams	4:25	9-7	374.9 (7)	339.6 (13)	24.6 (11)	22.8 (17)

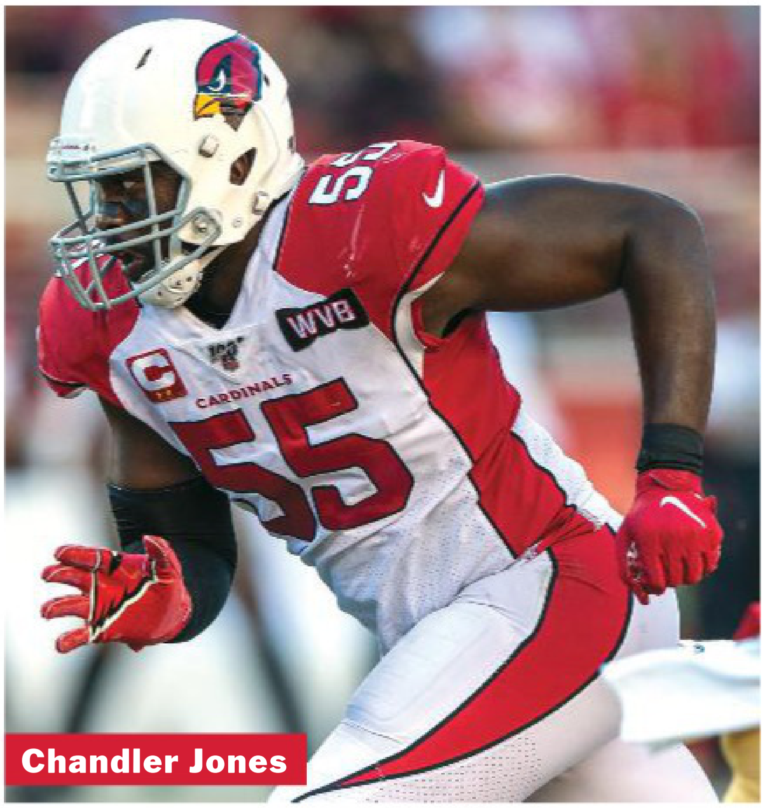
Peter Brouillet

Kyler Murray

QUARTERBACK

a knee injury. Humphries and guards Justin Pugh and J.R. Sweezy didn't miss a game in 2019, and for now, it looks as if Mason Cole, who started all 16 games a rookie in 2018, will be the starting center.

DEFENSE As much as Keim and the Cardinals did during the offseason to make life easier for Murray, they did even more on the other side of the ball. It's not like the defense didn't need a facelift. Arizona ranked last in the league in yards allowed per game (402.0) and total receptions allowed (421) and tied for last in total interceptions (seven). The Cardinals defense was second-to-last in passing yards per game (281.9) and touchdown passes (38) and third worst in completion percentage (70.1).



Chandler Jones

Peter Brouillet

It wasn't just bad. It was embarrassing.

It didn't help that the Cardinals were without their best cornerback, Patrick Peterson, for the first six weeks of the season due to a PED suspension, and that it took him that many more weeks to finally return to form. Or that their No. 2 corner, Robert Alford, missed the entire season upon fracturing his leg toward the end of training camp. Both players are ready to roll now, however, and they're getting loads of help in front of them at multiple positions.

The Cardinals added three new starters via free agency, snagged a potential game-changing defender and loaded up on depth in the draft. Jordan Phillips (Bills) gives Arizona the disruptive force on the interior line it hasn't had since Calais Campbell. Devon Kennard (Lions) can now draw some double-team attention away from All-Pro Chandler Jones as his bookend at outside linebacker. De'Vondre Campbell (Falcons) brings needed stability at inside linebacker, where first-round pick Isaiah Simmons (Clemson) figures to start his NFL career. Simmons played five different positions in college, and although he is pegged as an inside linebacker, he could move around like he did at Clemson, according to defensive coordinator Vance Joseph. "If it's a job we think he can do, we will put him out there," Joseph says. "That's why he was drafted. I want Isaiah to be Isaiah. What we saw him do on Clemson tape, I want him to do all those things if possible."

Arizona further beefed up its defensive line with fourth-round picks Leki Fotu (Utah) and Rashard Lawrence (LSU) and drafted a tackling machine who can help back up starting middle linebacker Jordan Hicks, the league's third-leading tackler in 2019, in sixth-round pick Evan Weaver (Cal).

SPECIALISTS Special teams have been a strength for the Cardinals since they hired Jeff Rodgers as their coordinator in 2018 and subsequently promoted him to assistant head coach last year. Though they haven't gotten much out of their return game since Peterson was an All-Pro punt returner as a rookie, the rest of the units shined again in 2019. Kicker Zane Gonzalez was named a Pro Bowl alternate after finishing fourth in the league in points (127) and field goals made (31), both of which ranked third best in franchise history. Veteran punter Andy Lee, meanwhile, had the NFL's second-best gross average (47.8) after leading the league a year ago and remains one of the most reliable legs in the business. Expect Rodgers to audition multiple candidates for the primary return duties, but there is speed and deceptiveness in two of the most likely candidates, Andy Isabella and Kirk.

FINAL ANALYSIS The NFL is well known for its worst-to-first turnarounds, but it's important to remember that the Cardinals haven't had a winning season in four years and are coming off a 5–10–1 season in which they stumbled often and didn't find their way until December. The roster received such an injection of extra skill and dependability, though, that it's not difficult to imagine this club emerging as a possible playoff contender. It won't be easy in the always-tough NFC West, but with a third wild-card team added to the mix in each conference, don't be shocked if the new-look Cardinals are able to make a lot of noise in 2020.

2019 RESULTS (5-10-1)

Sept.	8	Detroit (ot)	T	27-27
Sept.	15	at Baltimore	L	17-23
Sept.	22	Carolina	L	20-38
Sept.	29	Seattle	L	10-27
Oct.	6	at Cincinnati	W	26-23
Oct.	13	Atlanta	W	34-33
Oct.	20	at N.Y. Giants	W	27-21
Oct.	27	at New Orleans	L	9-31
Oct.	31	San Francisco	L	25-28
Nov.	10	at Tampa Bay	L	27-30
Nov.	17	at San Francisco	L	26-36
Dec.	1	L.A. Rams	L	7-34
Dec.	8	Pittsburgh	L	17-23
Dec.	15	Cleveland	W	38-24
Dec.	22	at Seattle	W	27-13
Dec.	29	at L.A. Rams	L	24-31

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Kyler Murray	542	349	3,722	20	12

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Kenyan Drake	123	643	5.2	8
Kyler Murray	93	544	5.8	4
David Johnson	94	345	3.7	2
Chase Edmonds	60	303	5.1	4

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Larry Fitzgerald	75	804	10.7	4
Christian Kirk	68	709	10.4	3
David Johnson	36	370	10.3	4
Damiere Byrd	32	359	11.2	1
Kenyan Drake	28	171	6.1	0

KICKING: Zane Gonzalez, 31-35 FGs, 34-35 PAT, 127 points

TACKLES: Jordan Hicks, 150; Budda Baker, 147

SACKS: Chandler Jones, 19.0; Terrell Suggs, 5.5

INTERCEPTIONS: Jordan Hicks, 3; Patrick Peterson, 2

2019 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	341.7	21	13
Rushing	124.4	10	5
Passing	217.3	24	14
Scoring	22.6	T16	11
Third Down %	36.0	23	13
Punt Returns	7.0	T17	7
Kick Returns	21.2	24	11

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	402.0	32	16
Rushing	120.1	24	14
Passing	281.9	31	15
Scoring	27.6	28	13
Interceptions	7	T30	T14
Sacks	40	T17	10
Turnover Differential	-1	T18	T9

Scouting the Cardinals

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP ARIZONA "The first-year duo of QB Kyler Murray and head coach/offensive play-caller Kliff Kingsbury led the Cardinals to a 5–10–1 record and last place in the NFC West. But there is a lot of optimism for this offense heading into Year Two. Murray is a jitterbug and has a quick-flick release but needs to have better situational awareness. They made a midseason trade for dynamic RB Kenyan Drake, who excelled in this spread offense. David Johnson was the third-highest-paid RB, and after a disappointing 2019 season, he was traded to the Texans for DeAndre Hopkins, arguably the best WR in the NFL. Future Hall of Fame WR Larry Fitzgerald decided to return for another season, but look for young WRs Christian Kirk and Andy Isabella to up their productivity. … With their finesse OL scheme, they paid LT D.J. Humphries and upgraded the RT spot with rookie Josh Jones. … Ex-Bills DT Jordan Phillips (9.5 sacks) reunited with defensive coordinator Vance Joseph after the Cardinals had one of the worst interior DLs last year. … All-Pro edge Chandler Jones had 19 sacks, but the hope is that the overall unit improves with the additions of veteran edge Devon Kennard and versatile rookie Isaiah Simmons. … At ILB they have Jordan Hicks, who is a solid starter, and they signed ex-Falcon De'Vondre Campbell, but what does this mean for former first-round pick Haason Reddick? … Star CB Patrick Peterson is 30, and nickel Byron Murphy is heading into his second season, but to compete long term, they need to add more quality depth. Safety Budda Baker is an energizer bunny, but do they have enough defensive talent to support the offense and make a run at the playoffs?"

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
ILB	De'Vondre Campbell	Atlanta
DT	Trevon Coley	Indianapolis
WR	DeAndre Hopkins	Houston
OLB	Devon Kennard	Detroit
DT	Jordan Phillips	Buffalo

KEY LOSSES −

POS.	PLAYER	2020 TEAM
WR	Damiere Byrd	New England
TE	Charles Clay	Free Agent
WR	Pharoh Cooper	Carolina
RB	David Johnson	Houston
C	A.Q. Shipley	Free Agent
ILB	Joe Walker	San Francisco

Offseason Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR	10	DeAndre Hopkins	89	Andy Isabella
WR	11	Larry Fitzgerald	19	KeeSean Johnson
WR	13	Christian Kirk	16	Trent Sherfield
LT	74	D.J. Humphries	71	Justin Murray
LG	67	Justin Pugh	70	Sam Jones
C	52	Mason Cole	65	Lamont Gaillard
RG	64	J.R. Sweezy	73	Max Garcia
RT	76	Marcus Gilbert	79	Josh Jones (R)
TE	87	Maxx Williams	82	Dan Arnold
QB	1	Kyler Murray	7	Brett Hundley
RB	41	Kenyan Drake	29	Chase Edmonds

DEFENSE

DE	94	Zach Allen	90	Jonathan Bullard
NT	98	Corey Peters	95	Leki Fotu (R)
DT	97	Jordan Phillips	92	Rashard Lawrence (R)
OLB	55	Chandler Jones	43	Haason Reddick
MLB	58	Jordan Hicks	50	Evan Weaver (R)
SLB	48	Isaiah Simmons (R)	59	De'Vondre Campbell
OLB	42	Devon Kennard	49	Kylie Fitts
CB	21	Patrick Peterson	25	Chris Jones
CB	23	Robert Alford	33	Byron Murphy Jr.
FS	32	Budda Baker	28	Charles Washington
SS	34	Jalen Thompson	35	Deionte Thompson

SPECIALISTS

K	5	Zane Gonzalez	KR	89	Andy Isabella
P	4	Andy Lee	PR	13	Christian Kirk

2020 VETERAN CARDINALS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
3	Anderson, Drew	QB	6-4	221	1	Murray State	FA-19	FA-Ari-19
7	Hundley, Brett	QB	6-3	226	5	UCLA	FA-Sea-19	D5-GB-15
1	Murray, Kyler	QB	5-10	207	1	Oklahoma	D1-19	D1-Ari-19
15	Streveler, Chris	QB	6-1	215	1	South Dakota	FA-20	FA-Ari-20

RUNNING BACKS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
41	Drake, Kenyan	RB	6-1	211	4	Alabama	T-Mia-19	D3a-Mia-16
29	Edmonds, Chase	RB	5-9	205	2	Fordham	D4-18	D4-Ari-18
37	Foster, D.J.	RB	6-0	205	4	Arizona State	FA-17	FA-NE-16

RECEIVERS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
82	Arnold, Dan	TE	6-6	220	3	Wisc.-Platteville	W-NO-19	FA-NO-17
17	Butler, Hakeem	WR	6-5	227	1	Iowa State	D4-19	D4-Ari-19
81	Daniels, Darrell	TE	6-3	256	3	Washington	W-Sea-18	FA-Ind-17
12	Dixon, Johnnie	WR	5-11	198	1	Ohio State	FA-19	FA-Hou-19
11	Fitzgerald, Larry	WR	6-3	218	16	Pittsburgh	D1-04	D1-Ari-04
10	Hopkins, DeAndre	WR	6-1	212	7	Clemson	T-Hou-20	D1-Hou-13
89	Isabella, Andy	WR	5-9	188	1	Massachusetts	D2b-19	D2b-Ari-19
19	Johnson, KeeSean	WR	6-1	201	1	Fresno State	D6a-19	D6a-Ari-19
13	Kirk, Christian	WR	5-11	200	2	Texas A&M	D2-18	D2-Ari-18
83	Richardson, A.J.	WR	6-0	212	1	Boise State	FA-19	FA-Ari-19
16	Sherfield, Trent	WR	6-1	219	2	Vanderbilt	FA-18	FA-Ari-18
87	Williams, Maxx	TE	6-4	252	5	Minnesota	FA-Bal-19	D2-Bal-15

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
52	Cole, Mason	OL	6-5	307	2	Michigan	D3-18	D3-Ari-18
65	Gaillard, Lamont	OL	6-3	305	1	Georgia	D6b-19	D6b-Ari-19
73	Garcia, Max	OL	6-4	309	5	Florida	FA-Den-19	D4-Den-15
76	Gilbert, Marcus	OL	6-6	330	9	Florida	T-Pit-19	D2-Pit-11
74	Humphries, D.J.	OL	6-5	307	5	Florida	D1-15	D1-Ari-15
70	Jones, Sam	OL	6-5	290	2	Arizona State	FA-19	D6-Den-18
66	Miles, Josh	OL	6-5	325	1	Morgan State	D7a-19	D7a-Ari-19
71	Murray, Justin	OL	6-5	315	2	Cincinnati	W-LV-19	FA-Den-16
67	Pugh, Justin	OL	6-5	311	7	Syracuse	FA-NYG-18	D1-NYG-13
64	Sweezy, J.R.	OL	6-5	310	8	NC State	FA-Sea-19	D7a-Sea-12
78	Toth, Brett	OL	6-6	304	1	Army	W-Phi-19	FA-Phi-19

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
94	Allen, Zach	DL	6-4	281	1	Boston College	D3-19	D3-Ari-19
72	Brown, Miles	DL	6-2	320	1	Wofford	FA-19	FA-Ari-19
90	Bullard, Jonathan	DL	6-3	296	4	Florida	W-Chi-19	D3-Chi-16
93	Coley, Trevon	DL	6-1	310	3	Florida Atlantic	FA-Ind-20	FA-Bal-16
91	Dogbe, Michael	DL	6-3	280	1	Temple	D7b-19	D7b-Ari-19
96	Johnson, Lyndon	DL	6-5	287	1	Cincinnati	FA-19	FA-Jac-18
98	Peters, Corey	DL	6-3	335	10	Kentucky	FA-Atl-15	D3a-Atl-10
97	Phillips, Jordan	DT	6-6	341	5	Oklahoma	FA-Buf-20	D2-Mia-15

LINEBACKERS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
59	Campbell, De'Vondre	LB	6-3	232	4	Minnesota	FA-Atl-20	D4-Atl-16
57	Dora, Vontarrius	LB	6-4	256	2	Louisiana Tech	FA-18	FA-Den-16
49	Fitts, Kylie	LB	6-4	260	2	Utah	FA-19	D6-Chi-18
45	Gardeck, Dennis	LB	6-0	232	2	Sioux Falls	FA-18	FA-Ari-18
58	Hicks, Jordan	LB	6-1	236	5	Texas	FA-Phi-19	D3-Phi-15
55	Jones, Chandler	LB	6-5	255	8	Syracuse	T-NE-16	D1-NE-12
42	Kennard, Devon	LB	6-3	256	6	USC	FA-Det-20	D5b-NYG-14
43	Reddick, Haason	LB	6-1	235	3	Temple	D1-17	D1-Ari-17
47	Turner, Ezekiel	LB	6-2	214	2	Washington	FA-18	FA-Ari-18
51	Vallejo, Tanner	LB	6-1	230	3	Boise State	FA-19	D6-Buf-17

DEFENSIVE BACKS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
23	Alford, Robert	CB	5-10	186	7	SE Louisiana	FA-Atl-19	D2-Atl-13
32	Baker, Budda	S	5-10	195	3	Washington	D2-17	D2-Ari-17
38	Banjo, Chris	S	5-10	207	7	SMU	FA-19	FA-Jac-13
30	Davis, Jalen	CB	5-10	185	2	Utah State	FA-19	FA-Mia-18
25	Jones, Chris	CB	6-0	200	1	Nebraska	FA-18	FA-Ari-18
33	Murphy Jr., Byron	CB	5-11	190	1	Washington	D2a-19	D2a-Ari-19
27	Peterson, Kevin	CB	5-11	185	3	Oklahoma State	W-LAR-19	FA-Chi-16
21	Peterson, Patrick	CB	6-1	203	9	LSU	D1-11	D1-Ari-11
36	Shelton, Sojourn	CB	5-9	177	1	Wisconsin	FA-19	FA-Ari-17
20	Thomas, Duke	CB	5-11	185	1	Texas	FA-19	FA-Hou-16
35	Thompson, Deionte	S	6-1	195	1	Alabama	D5-19	D5-Ari-19
34	Thompson, Jalen	S	6-0	190	1	Washington State	SD5-19	SD5-Ari-19
28	Washington, Charles	S	5-10	192	3	Fresno State	W-Det-19	FA-Det-16

SPECIALISTS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
46	Brewer, Aaron	LS	6-5	232	8	San Diego State	FA-16	FA-Den-12
5	Gonzalez, Zane	K	6-0	202	3	Arizona State	FA-18	D7-Cle-17
4	Lee, Andy	P	6-1	185	16	Pittsburgh	FA-17	D6-SF-04
9	Winslow Ryan	P	6-5	217	1	Pittsburgh	FA-19	FA-Chi-18

Cardinals *in the Draft* | Grade: A

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	**Isaiah Simmons**	**ILB**	**6-4**	**238**	**Clemson**
3.	Josh Jones	OT	6-5	319	Houston
4.	Leki Fotu	DT	6-5	330	Utah
4.	Rashard Lawrence	DT	6-2	308	LSU
6.	Evan Weaver	ILB	6-3	235	Cal
7.	Eno Benjamin	RB	5-9	207	Arizona State

The Cardinals probably should have waited until this year to grab three wide receivers in the draft, considering how strong it was, but after drafting three in 2019 and trading for DeAndre Hopkins this year, they had the luxury of resisting the temptation and instead used 2020 to restock their defense. They had do-everything defender Isaiah Simmons fall to them at No. 8 overall, had similar luck in the third round by landing their future starting right tackle in Josh Jones and beefed up the interior of their defensive line in fourth-rounders Leki Fotu and Rashard Lawrence. Evan Weaver and Eno Benjamin will contribute on special teams right away.

Outside the Huddle

TRASH TALKING GM Steve Keim didn't mind preparing for the draft in a virtual world at home, except for the daily distractions he dealt with from Carson, Brady and Warner. No, not the three quarterbacks — Carson Palmer, Tom Brady and Kurt Warner. It was Keim's three sons, Carson, Brady and Warner. "Unfortunately, they think they know more about the draft than I do," Keim said at the time. "So, on a daily basis I get their updated top 15 and who we should take. A lot of comments that I'm trash, so they would agree with a lot of the fans out there."

HOP ALONG Since entering the league as a first-round pick out of Clemson in 2013, DeAndre Hopkins ranks third in the NFL in receptions (632), third in receiving yards (8,602), and second in touchdown catches (54). Ask him, though, and he will tell you that he doesn't consider himself second or third best at anything. In his mind, he is the best. "I will always feel like that," Hopkins says.

PICK YOUR POISON Trading for Hopkins, re-signing Kenyan Drake and getting the expected jump in production from Kyler Murray has the Cardinals feeling so good about their offense that even one of their star players on defense is excited about it. "Do you double-cover (Hopkins)? Do you stop the run now, bringing KD back? Do you take somebody out of coverage to spy Kyler? Defenses are going to have to pick their poison now at this point," linebacker Jordan Hicks says. "You can't sit back and pass rush three against this dude (Murray) because he'll scramble all over the place on you. There's no perfect scenario now in going against our offense, especially with as dynamic of a play-caller as Kliff [Kingsbury] is, so it's going to completely change the whole dynamic."

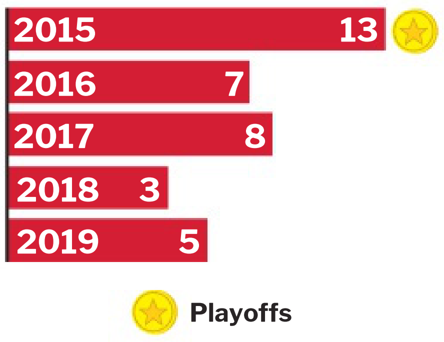
DID YOU KNOW? Hicks and safety Malcolm Jenkins, then with the Eagles, were the only players in the league last season to play every single defensive snap for their respective teams. The knock against Hicks was that he couldn't stay healthy, and he hopes to further dispel that notion in 2020. "Obviously, the show's not done," he says. "One year doesn't make or break anything. I've got to continue to stay on top of things."

QUARTERBACK CAROUSEL Larry Fitzgerald ranks second in the NFL all-time behind only Jerry Rice in career receptions (1,378) and receiving yards (17,083), but that's even more amazing considering Fitzgerald has caught a pass from at least 22 different quarterbacks in a Cardinals uniform. Palmer completed the most to Fitzgerald (363).

KEEPING UP WITH THE JONES The 2016 trade to snag Chandler Jones from New England has turned out to be a steal. Since he joined the Cardinals that year, nobody has more sacks in the NFL (60) than Jones. His 17 forced fumbles during that span are tied with Khalil Mack for the most in the league, and his 66 tackles for a loss are tied for second behind only Aaron Donald.

WE ARE FAMILY The free agent signing of outside linebacker Devon Kennard, the son of former Cardinals offensive lineman Derek Kennard Sr., makes them the third father-and-son duo to play for the franchise. The Kennards join the Butlers (Kevin and Drew) and the Metcalfs (Terry and Eric).

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



NUMBERS TO KNOW

6,432

No NFL team allowed more total yards than the 6,432 the Cardinals did in 2019.

108

Kyler Murray ran the second-highest number of run-pass options last year, at 108 per Sportradar data.

3.3

No NFL team averaged more yards before contact per attempt than the 3.3 the Cardinals did.

Paul Abell

Los Angeles
RAMS

NFC West Forecast: 3

THE ORGANIZATION

Owner/Chairman: E. Stanley Kroenke
COO: Kevin Demoff
General Manager: Les Snead
Director of Pro Scouting: Ray Agnew
Stadium: SoFi Stadium (70,240)
Surface: Artificial turf
Website: www.therams.com
Tickets: 818-338-0011
Training Camp: University of California, Irvine (Irvine, Calif.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Sean McVay
Record With Team: 33-15
Career Record: 33-15
Offensive Coordinator: Kevin O'Connell
Defensive Coordinator: Brandon Staley
Special Teams Coordinator: John Bonamego
Pass Game Coordinator/Quarterbacks: Shane Waldron
Running Backs: Thomas Brown
Wide Receivers: Eric Yarber
Tight Ends: Wes Phillips
Run Game Coordinator/Offensive Line: Aaron Kromer
Defensive Line: Eric Henderson
Assistant Head Coach/Linebackers: Joe Barry
Outside Linebackers: Chris Shula
Cornerbacks: Aubrey Pleasant
Safeties: Ejiro Evero

The Rams go into 2020 with a new stadium, new uniforms, new coordinators, a new running back and new blood in the heart of the defense. And new appreciation for how hard it is to stay on top in the NFL.

Last year, the league caught up with the innovative offense that had taken the Rams to the Super Bowl and made Sean McVay the prototype for young head coaches.

This year, their own big spending on contract extensions for the NFC championship heroes is catching up with the Rams' whole roster and putting McVay and GM Les Snead on the spot.

Salary-cap issues played a part in the early-offseason release of Todd Gurley II, the trade of Brandin Cooks, the failure to re-sign top free agents Cory Littleton and Dante Fowler Jr. and the inability to sign a surefire replacement for any of them.

McVay likes to address the unpredictability of the NFL from season to season by saying: "Each year is a new year."

That's a way of saying: The Rams never expected to go into a new season with so many questions so soon after seeming to have all the answers.

OFFENSE For the first time since 2017, the Rams officially have an offensive coordinator, former Redskins OC and NFL backup quarterback Kevin O'Connell. But McVay will continue to call the plays while O'Connell provides an extra pair of eyes and works with quarterback Jared Goff — shades of the useful roles that Matt LaFleur and Zac Taylor played under McVay before leaving to coach the Packers and Bengals, respectively.

Now, if McVay and O'Connell can just figure out how to make the offense hum as it did when a healthy Gurley was running for 1,200 yards and setting up Goff's effective play-action passes while a healthy Cooks used his speed to open up defenses.

In the backfield, it could be running back by committee with second-round draft pick Cam Akers (Florida State), second-year Darrell Henderson Jr. and career backup Malcolm Brown. It will be better, though, if the hard-running Akers hits his high ceiling and takes over the position.

On the flanks, super sub Josh Reynolds should finally get his chance to be featured alongside Robert Woods and Cooper Kupp in three-wide-receiver sets. He'll be asked to be the deep threat who creates the space for short passes that Woods and Kupp exploit so well. Second-round draft pick Van Jefferson (Florida) is seen more in the mold of a slot receiver like Kupp, running polished routes.

One big question: How often will the Rams go with three wide receivers? The offense hit its best stride in 2019 after Cooks' and Woods' unavailability for one game forced McVay to use more two-tight-end sets, and the switch stuck. Tyler Higbee took advantage with a huge December catching the ball, and the extra blocking took some heat off the offensive line. Expect to see a lot of Higbee with Gerald Everett or Johnny Mundt.

A mostly young and somewhat maligned O-line went through nine starters last season because of performance and injury issues. But it wasn't half bad once Austin Corbett, Austin Blythe, David Edwards and Bobby Evans settled in under Andrew Whitworth's wing. The Rams seem to have convinced themselves the unit isn't a major liability. At least not the kind that they could correct through the draft or free agency.

All of that will help determine if Goff's numbers bounce back to a level worthy of the $33.5 mil-

2020 SCHEDULE				2019 NFL RANKINGS					
Date		Opponent	Time	2019 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept.	13	Dallas	8:20	8-8	431.5 (1)	327.0 (9)	27.1 (6)	20.1 (11)
Sept.	20	at Philadelphia	1:00	9-7	360.8 (14)	331.7 (10)	24.1 (12)	22.1 (15)
Sept.	27	at Buffalo	1:00	10-6	330.2 (24)	298.3 (3)	19.6 (23)	16.2 (2)
Oct.	4	N.Y. Giants	4:05	4-12	338.5 (23)	377.3 (25)	21.3 (t18)	28.2 (30)
Oct.	11	at Washington	1:00	3-13	274.7 (31)	385.1 (27)	16.6 (32)	27.2 (27)
Oct.	18	at San Francisco	8:20	13-3	381.1 (4)	281.8 (2)	29.9 (2)	19.4 (8)
Oct.	26	Chicago (Mon.)	8:15	8-8	296.8 (29)	324.1 (8)	17.5 (29)	18.6 (4)
Nov.	1	at Miami	1:00	5-11	310.0 (27)	397.8 (30)	19.1 (25)	30.9 (32)
	BYE							
Nov.	15	Seattle	4:25	11-5	374.4 (8)	381.6 (26)	25.3 (9)	24.9 (22)
Nov.	23	at Tampa Bay (Mon.)	8:15	7-9	397.9 (3)	343.9 (15)	28.6 (t3)	28.1 (29)
Nov.	29	San Francisco	4:05	13-3	381.1 (4)	281.8 (2)	29.9 (2)	19.4 (8)
Dec.	6	at Arizona	4:05	5-10-1	341.7 (21)	402.0 (32)	22.6 (t16)	27.6 (28)
Dec.	10	New England (Thu.)	8:20	12-4	354.0 (15)	275.9 (1)	26.2 (7)	14.1 (1)
Dec.	19/20	N.Y. Jets	TBD	7-9	273.0 (32)	323.1 (7)	17.2 (31)	22.4 (16)
Dec.	27	at Seattle	4:05	11-5	374.4 (8)	381.6 (26)	25.3 (9)	24.9 (22)
Jan.	3	Arizona	4:25	5-10-1	341.7 (21)	402.0 (32)	22.6 (t16)	27.6 (28)

Jalen Ramsey

CORNERBACK

2019 RESULTS
(9-7)

Sept.	8	at Carolina	W	30-27
Sept.	15	New Orleans	W	27-9
Sept.	22	at Cleveland	W	20-13
Sept.	29	Tampa Bay	L	40-55
Oct.	3	at Seattle	L	29-30
Oct.	13	San Francisco	L	7-20
Oct.	20	at Atlanta	W	37-10
Oct.	27	Cincinnati	W	24-10
Nov.	10	at Pittsburgh	L	12-17
Nov.	17	Chicago	W	17-7
Nov.	25	Baltimore	L	6-45
Dec.	1	at Arizona	W	34-7
Dec.	8	Seattle	W	28-12
Dec.	15	at Dallas	L	21-44
Dec.	21	at San Francisco	L	31-34
Dec.	29	Arizona	W	31-24

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Jared Goff	626	394	4,638	22	16

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Todd Gurley II	223	857	3.8	12
Malcolm Brown	69	255	3.7	5
Darrell Henderson	39	147	3.8	0
Robert Woods	17	115	6.8	1

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Cooper Kupp	94	1,161	12.4	10
Robert Woods	90	1,134	12.6	2
Tyler Higbee	69	734	10.6	3
Brandin Cooks	42	583	13.9	2
Gerald Everett	37	408	11.0	2
Todd Gurley II	31	207	6.7	2

KICKING: Greg Zuerlein, 24-33 FGs, 42-42 PAT, 114 points

TACKLES: Cory Littleton, 134; Eric Weddle, 108

SACKS: Aaron Donald, 12.5; Dante Fowler Jr., 11.5

INTERCEPTIONS: Six tied with 2

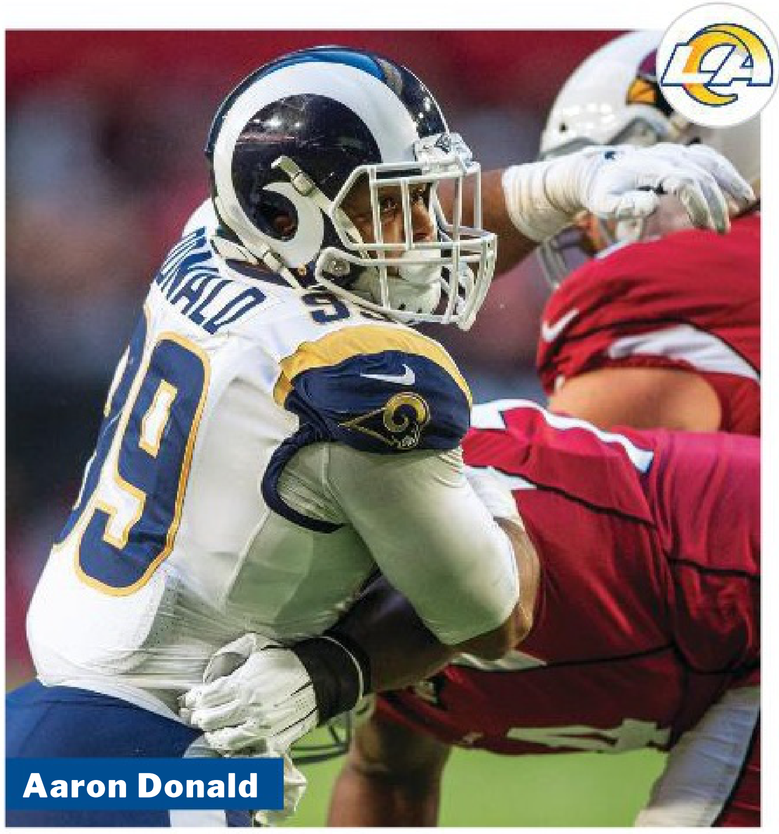
2019 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	374.9	7	5
Rushing	93.7	26	14
Passing	281.2	4	4
Scoring	24.6	11	7
Third Down %	39.9	16	10
Punt Returns	6.3	23	10
Kick Returns	22.4	T15	T8

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	339.6	13	6
Rushing	113.1	19	9
Passing	226.6	12	4
Scoring	22.8	17	8
Interceptions	13	T12	T5
Sacks	50	4	3
Turnover Differential	0	T15	T7

Ramsey, Donald: Peter Brouillet

lion-per-year extension he signed last September. Goff wasn't often the solution for the offense last season, but he was far from the problem some fans imagined. He'll be a playoff quarterback again if he gets enough help from the play-calling, ground game and offensive line. Key word: If.


Aaron Donald

DEFENSE In some ways, the Rams' defense outplayed the offense last season, yet they decided to move on from popular defensive coordinator Wade Phillips, 73, and hire former Bears and Broncos assistant Brandon Staley, 37, for his first pro coordinator job.

Staley immediately indicated he would keep the Rams' 3-4 primary alignment. We'll have to see what shape the defense takes, though, because he said that before the linebacker corps was weakened by the free-agent losses of Littleton from the inside and Fowler from the edge, plus the release of OLB Clay Matthews.

The defensive line will be solid again. Of course, Aaron Donald plus a fire hydrant and a candlestick would be solid. Michael Brockers re-signed, and former Lions tackle A'Shawn Robinson was added as a free agent during the short time when it appeared Brockers was going to the Ravens. Young Sebastian Joseph-Day and Greg Gaines remain in the mix in the line's interior.

The secondary can absorb the loss of slot cornerback Nickell Robey-Coleman (whose option was declined) and safety Eric Weddle (retired). Shutdown corner Jalen Ramsey's presence makes everyone on the defense better, and Troy Hill stepped in with one of the league's lowest completions-against rates. Rookie Taylor Rapp led the team in tackles during the absence of injured John Johnson III, and now they'll form as a strong, young safety combo. Third-round pick Terrell Burgess (Utah) will be a valuable backup, able to play safety and slot corner.

One challenge is to restore consistency to the unit, which tripped up the team's late-season playoff run with a few terrible lapses. Another is to conjure up more timely, game-changing big plays, a shortage of which was one reason the team that staged an epic comeback in the 2018 NFC title game never overcame a deficit of more than four points to win in 2020.

But it all comes back to the linebackers. Replacing Littleton, a top-10 tackler the past two seasons, will fall to one of an inexperienced crew. Replacing Fowler, tied for fifth in the NFL in tackles for a loss, falls to former Bears outside linebacker Leonard Floyd or talented but unrefined third-round pick Terrell Lewis (Alabama). For the task of developing an edge rusher, Staley looks like the right man: He was Khalil Mack's position coach with the Bears and then was Von Miller's position coach with the Broncos.

SPECIALISTS The band broke up after eight years when Rams special teams coordinator John Fassel left for the same role with the Cowboys, and kicker Greg Zuerlein followed him to Dallas. Veteran NFL assistant John Bonamego comes in as coordinator needing to identify a kicker from among seventh-round draft pick Samuel Sloman and free-agent signings Lirim Hajrullahu (CFL) and Austin MacGinnis (XFL), and a kick and punt returner to replace JoJo Natson, who was waived. It might have been time for a change in the special teams anyway. Zuerlein misfired more than usual in 2019, and the unit went from elite to below average.

FINAL ANALYSIS The expansion of the NFL playoffs from six to seven teams per conference comes at a good time for the Rams. They look no better than third in the league's toughest division and will need a lot to go right to return to contention this year. It's Goff's offense more than ever with Gurley gone, but he can't succeed unless an answer at running back emerges and the young interior of the offensive line improves. It's also Donald's defense more than ever, but he needs an edge rusher to take the pressure off. A year ago, the Rams faced questions about the imaginary Super Bowl Loser's Curse. Those were easy compared to the real challenges they face now.

2020 VETERAN RAMS ROSTER

	QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
16	Goff, Jared	QB	6-4	222	4	California	D1-16	D1-LAR-16
9	Wolford, John	QB	6-1	200	1	Wake Forest	FA-19	FA-NYJ-18
	RUNNING BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
34	Brown, Malcolm	RB	5-11	222	4	Texas	FA-15	FA-LAR-15
27	Henderson Jr., Darrell	RB	5-8	208	1	Memphis	D3a-19	D3a-LAR-19
42	Kelly, John	RB	5-10	205	2	Tennessee	D6a-18	D6a-LAR-18
	RECEIVERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
86	Blanton, Kendall	TE	6-6	262	1	Missouri	FA-19	FA-LAR-19
87	Dortch, Greg	WR	5-7	175	1	Wake Forest	FA-19	FA-NYJ-19
81	Everett, Gerald	TE	6-3	240	3	South Alabama	D2-17	D2-LAR-17
89	Higbee, Tyler	TE	6-6	255	4	Western Kentucky	D4a-16	D4a-LAR-16
18	Kupp, Cooper	WR	6-2	208	3	Eastern Washington	D3a-17	D3a-LAR-17
82	Mundt, Johnny	TE	6-4	233	2	Oregon	FA-17	FA-LAR-17
11	Reynolds, Josh	WR	6-3	196	3	Texas A&M	D4a-17	D4a-LAR-17
14	Webster, Nsimba	WR	5-10	180	1	Eastern Washington	FA-19	FA-LAR-19
84	Wolf, Ethan	TE	6-6	252	1	Tennessee	FA-19	FA-Ten-18
17	Woods, Robert	WR	6-0	195	7	USC	FA-Buf-17	D2a-Buf-13
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
55	Allen, Brian	C	6-2	303	2	Michigan State	D4a-18	D4a-LAR-18
66	Blythe, Austin	OL	6-3	298	4	Iowa	W-Ind-17	D7-Ind-16
67	Brewer, Chandler	OL	6-6	320	1	Middle Tennessee	FA-19	FA-LAR-19
63	Corbett, Austin	OL	6-4	306	2	Nevada	T-Cle-19	D2a-Cle-18
64	Demby, Jamil	OL	6-5	321	1	Maine	D6b-18	D6b-LAR-18
73	Edwards, David	G/T	6-6	308	1	Wisconsin	D5-19	D5-LAR-19
71	Evans, Bobby	T	6-4	312	1	Oklahoma	D3c-19	D3c-LAR-19
79	Havenstein, Rob	T	6-8	330	5	Wisconsin	D2-15	D2-LAR-15
61	Kolone, Jeremiah	OL	6-3	316	1	San Jose State	FA-19	FA-LAR-18
70	Noteboom, Joe	OL	6-5	321	2	TCU	D3-18	D3-LAR-18
65	Shelton, Coleman	C	6-4	299	1	Washington	FA-19	FA-SF-18
60	Trewyn, Nate	C	6-4	315	1	Wisc.-Whitewater	FA-19	FA-TB-19
77	Whitworth, Andrew	T	6-7	330	14	LSU	FA-17	D2-Cin-06
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
90	Brockers, Michael	DL	6-5	305	8	LSU	D1-12	D1-LAR-12
93	Copeland, Marquise	DT	6-2	287	1	Cincinnati	FA-19	FA-LAR-19
99	Donald, Aaron	DT	6-1	280	6	Pittsburgh	D1b-14	D1b-LAR-14
97	Fox, Morgan	DE	6-3	245	3	Colorado St.-Pueblo	FA-16	FA-LAR-16
91	Gaines, Greg	DT	6-1	312	1	Washington	D4-19	D4-LAR-19
69	Joseph-Day, Sebastian	DT	6-4	310	1	Rutgers	D6c-18	D6c-LAR-18
53	Lawler, Justin	DL	6-4	265	2	SMU	D7b-18	D7b-LAR-18
94	Robinson, A'Shawn	DT	6-4	330	4	Alabama	FA-Det-20	D2-Det-16
92	Smart, Tanzel	DT	6-1	295	2	Tulane	D6a-17	D6a-LAR-17
	LINEBACKERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
50	Ebukam, Samson	OLB	6-3	245	3	Eastern Washington	D4b-17	D4b-LAR-17
54	Floyd, Leonard	OLB	6-5	240	4	Georgia	FA-Chi-20	D1-Chi-16
46	Holland, Jeff	OLB	6-2	249	2	Auburn	FA-19	FA-Den-18
48	Howard, Travin	LB	6-1	219	1	TCU	D7a-18	D7a-LAR-18
59	Kiser, Micah	LB	6-0	244	2	Virginia	D5a-18	D5a-LAR-18
45	Okoronkwo, Ogbonnia	OLB	6-2	253	1	Oklahoma	D5b-18	D5b-LAR-18
57	Patrick, Natrez	LB	6-3	242	1	Georgia	FA-19	FA-LAR-19
95	Polite, Jachai	LB	6-3	258	1	Florida	FA-19	D3-NYJ-19
51	Reeder, Troy	LB	6-3	245	1	Delaware	FA-19	FA-LAR-19
41	Young, Kenny	LB	6-1	234	2	UCLA	T-Bal-19	D4b-Bal-18
	DEFENSIVE BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
36	Alexander, Adonis	DB	6-3	205	2	Virginia Tech	FA-19	SD6-Was-18
21	Deayon, Dont'e	DB	5-9	159	3	Boise State	FA-18	FA-NYG-16
39	Gervase, Jake	S	6-1	212	1	Iowa	FA-19	FA-LAR-19
22	Hill, Troy	CB	5-11	183	5	Oregon	W-NE-15	FA-Cin-15
43	Johnson III, John	S	6-0	209	3	Boston College	D3b-17	D3b-LAR-17
25	Long Jr., David	CB	5-11	196	1	Michigan	D3b-19	D3b-LAR-19
20	Ramsey, Jalen	CB	6-1	208	4	Florida State	T-Jac-19	D1-Jac-16
24	Rapp, Taylor	S	6-0	208	1	Washington	D2-19	D2-LAR-19
33	Scott, Nick	S	5-11	201	1	Penn State	D7a-19	D7a-LAR-19
31	Williams, Darious	DB	5-9	187	2	UAB	W-Bal-18	FA-Bal-18
	SPECIALISTS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
3	Hajrullahu, Lirim	K	5-11	205	1	Western University	FA-20	FA-LAR-20
6	Hekker, Johnny	P	6-5	241	8	Oregon State	FA-12	FA-LAR-12
8	MacGinnis, Austin	K	5-10	185	1	Kentucky	FA-20	FA-LAR-20
44	McQuaide, Jake	LS	6-2	235	9	Ohio State	FA-11	FA-LAR-11

Scouting the Rams

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP LOS ANGELES "QB Jared Goff was uncomfortable all season in head coach/offensive play-caller Sean McVay's offense, leading to 16 interceptions. They released star RB Todd Gurley II after giving him a contract extension just two seasons ago, and they drafted Cam Akers to be his replacement. They also paid big money to veteran WR Brandin Cooks a few years ago but ended up trading him to Houston this offseason. They still have talented WRs, with Cooper Kupp, Robert Woods and Josh Reynolds, and they drafted route technician Van Jefferson. They have an underrated TE group with Tyler Higbee and Gerald Everett. … They have a cohesive zone blocking OL unit and got great news with 38-year-old LT Andrew Whitworth's return. … DT Aaron Donald is a generational talent. They re-signed reliable DL Michael Brockers and strengthened this unit by adding ex-Lions DT A'Shawn Robinson. … They lost edge Dante Fowler Jr. (11.5 sacks) but drafted flashy Terrell Lewis and signed Leonard Floyd, who has a previous relationship with new defensive coordinator Brandon Staley. … Underrated, athletic ILB Cory Littleton departed to Las Vegas, and with an unappealing LB situation, look for Kenny Young to play a bigger role this season. … They traded a 2020 first-round draft pick and two future picks for All-Pro CB Jalen Ramsey, who will become the richest DB in NFL history; hence the reason they're cutting veterans on this roster. … The expectations are extremely high in Los Angeles and they must rebound; Hollywood doesn't put up with losers."

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
OLB	Leonard Floyd	Chicago
DT	A'Shawn Robinson	Detroit

KEY LOSSES −

POS.	PLAYER	2020 TEAM
RB	Todd Gurley II	Atlanta
WR	Brandin Cooks	Houston
OLB	Dante Fowler Jr.	Atlanta
LB	Cory Littleton	Las Vegas
OLB	Clay Matthews	Free Agent
PR	JoJo Natson	Cleveland
CB	Nickell Robey-Coleman	Philadelphia
S	Eric Weddle	Retired
K	Greg Zuerlein	Dallas

Offseason Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR	17	Robert Woods	14	Nsimba Webster
WR	18	Cooper Kupp	12	Van Jefferson (R)
WR	11	Josh Reynolds	87	Greg Dortch
LT	77	Andrew Whitworth	67	Chandler Brewer
LG	63	Austin Corbett	70	Joe Noteboom
C	66	Austin Blythe	55	Brian Allen
RG	73	David Edwards	64	Jamil Demby
RT	79	Rob Havenstein	71	Bobby Evans
TE	89	Tyler Higbee	81	Gerald Everett
QB	16	Jared Goff	9	John Wolford
RB	23	Cam Akers (R)	27	Darrell Henderson Jr.

DEFENSE

DE	90	Michael Brockers	97	Morgan Fox
DT	99	Aaron Donald	92	Tanzel Smart
NT	94	A'Shawn Robinson	69	Sebastian Joseph-Day
OLB	50	Samson Ebukam	52	Terrell Lewis (R)
ILB	59	Micah Kiser	48	Travin Howard
ILB	51	Troy Reeder	57	Natrez Patrick
OLB	54	Leonard Floyd	45	Ogbonnia Okoronkwo
CB	20	Jalen Ramsey	31	Darious Williams
CB	22	Troy Hill	25	David Long Jr.
FS	24	Taylor Rapp	33	Nick Scott
SS	43	John Johnson III	26	Terrell Burgess (R)

SPECIALISTS

K	1	Samuel Sloman (R)	KR	87	Greg Dortch
P	6	Johnny Hekker	PR	14	Nsimba Webster

Harrison McClary

Rams *in the Draft* | Grade: B

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
2.	**Cam Akers**	**RB**	**5-10**	**217**	**Florida State**
2.	Van Jefferson	WR	6-1	200	Florida
3.	Terrell Lewis	OLB	6-5	262	Alabama
3.	Terrell Burgess	S	5-11	202	Utah
4.	Brycen Hopkins	TE	6-4	245	Purdue
6.	Jordan Fuller	S	6-2	203	Ohio State
7.	Clay Johnston	ILB	6-1	227	Baylor
7.	Samuel Sloman	K	5-8	205	Miami (Ohio)
7.	Tremayne Anchrum	G	6-2	314	Clemson

Having given up their first-round pick in a trade (for Jalen Ramsey in 2019) for the fourth draft in a row, the Rams stocked up on picks and replenished the positions hit hardest by offseason departures. The top four picks could play big roles as rookies: Cam Akers should beat out 2019 third-rounder Darrell Henderson Jr. at running back eventually. Van Jefferson can battle Josh Reynolds for the third wide receiver role. Terrell Lewis slid in the draft because of injury concerns but has more upside than free-agent signing Leonard Floyd on the edge. And Terrell Burgess is valuable for his ability to play both safety and slot cornerback. The Brycen Hopkins pick could look like a steal in 2021, with Gerald Everett signed through 2020.

Outside the Huddle

GOODBYE TO GURLEY Releasing Todd Gurley II was one example this offseason of GM Les Snead's refusal to let a problem fester. Another was trading Brandin Cooks and a future fourth-round draft pick to Houston for the second-round pick the Rams then used to pick his potential replacement in Van Jefferson. Both Gurley, the one-time Offensive Player of the Year, and Cooks, the valuable deep threat, had big contracts through 2023 and showed signs of decline in their mid-20s. The moves don't afford the Rams a lot of extra space under the salary cap right away, but they save money and probably heartache down the road. One way the Rams did create cap space for this year was restructuring Jared Goff's contract, moving payments around without costing the quarterback money. Goff's $134 million contract, an NFL-high $110 million guaranteed, still eats up 18 percent of the team's cap, fourth highest in the league.

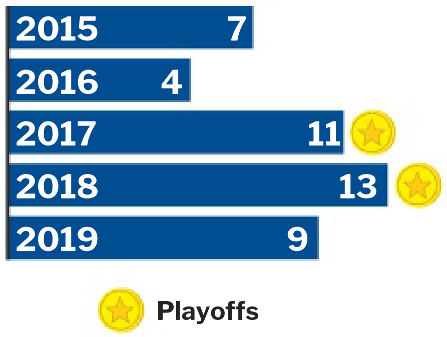
BRAND DISLOYALTY The Rams' most controversial change of the offseason didn't involve the roster; it involved the team's logos. Fans on social media reacted scathingly to the unveiling of new colors and designs, updates meant to coincide with the move into SoFi Stadium in Inglewood. It appeared the franchise tried too hard to please fans of its various looks through the decades and add artistic touches to invoke Southern California sunsets and ocean waves. Many liked the brighter versions of the traditional royal blue, yellow and white but hated the more geometric ram horns. Worst of all, some thought the sweeping horn in the main "LA" logo looked like a "C" — for Chargers.

PROMISE KEPT Team COO Kevin Demoff turned negative reaction to the new logos into a positive by promising to read "mean" reactions out loud on Twitter if a coronavirus-relief telethon put on by the Rams and ABC7 TV in late March raised more than $2 million for the United Way of L.A. and LA Regional Food Bank. It raised $2.3 million, with Goff and tackle Andrew Whitworth leading off by donating $250,000 each. Demoff followed through. He even laughed as he read the first mean tweet: "There's a Rams logo debate? What is it between? Trash and hot garbage?"

VIRUS HITS HOME The Rams pulled scouts off the road and had employees work from home early in the coronavirus pandemic, but they couldn't avoid it entirely. Center Brian Allen became the first NFL player known to have caught the virus when, in mid-April, he told a national reporter about his positive test. The third-year player had been rehabbing an injured knee at the Rams' training facility, so it was temporarily shut down, and team staffers who'd had contact with Allen were quarantined. Allen recovered without developing severe symptoms, and the Rams said no other employees got sick.

STAYING YOUNG Whitworth, 38, signed for three more seasons and $30 million, the richest contract ever for a non-quarterback over the age of 35. Only $12.5 million is guaranteed, so the Rams won't be too badly hurt if the left tackle isn't still playing when he's 41. Whitworth says he's taking it one season at a time and worked out this offseason as hard as ever.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



NUMBERS TO KNOW

27.9

With a pressure rate of 27.9 percent per Sportradar data, the Rams were fourth in getting to the quarterback.

219

Jared Goff was blitzed 219 times per Sportradar data, the third most of any quarterback in the league. He took just 22 sacks.

5.29

Los Angeles allowed 5.29 points per red zone possession to their opponents, the third most in the NFL.

San Francisco
49ERS

NFC West Forecast: 1

THE ORGANIZATION

Co-Chairpersons: Denise DeBartolo York, John York
CEO: Jed York
General Manager: John Lynch
President of 49ers Enterprises/EVP of Football Operations: Paraag Marathe
Stadium: Levi's Stadium (68,500)
Surface: Grass
Website: www.49ers.com
Tickets: 415-GO-49ERS (46-49377)
Training Camp: SAP Performance Facility (Santa Clara, Calif.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Kyle Shanahan
Record With Team: 23-25
Career Record: 23-25
Defensive Coordinator: Robert Saleh
Special Teams Coordinator: Richard Hightower
Quarterbacks: Shane Day
Running Backs: Robert Turner Jr.
Wide Receivers: Wes Welker
Assistant Head Coach/Tight Ends: Jon Embree
Offensive Line: John Benton
Defensive Line: Kris Kocurek
Inside Linebackers: DeMeco Ryans
Run Game Specialist/Outside Linebackers: Johnny Holland
Defensive Backs: Tony Oden
Safeties: Daniel Bullocks

The NFC champion 49ers wanted to get the whole gang back together. They didn't quite do that. But they didn't do badly given their offseason salary cap crunch. The 49ers will return 18 of 22 starters from last year's 13–3 team that had a 10-point lead over the Chiefs midway through the fourth quarter of their 31–20 loss in Super Bowl LIV.

They traded All-Pro defensive tackle DeForest Buckner to the Colts, lost Pro Bowl free agent wide receiver Emmanuel Sanders to the Saints and lost Pro Bowl left tackle Joe Staley to retirement. That's quite an exodus of talent. However, they made significant moves to address their three biggest holes. The 49ers replaced Staley by trading for another perennial Pro Bowler, Trent Williams, and used their first-round picks on South Carolina defensive tackle Javon Kinlaw and Arizona State wide receiver Brandon Aiyuk.

"I think we can be a better team," GM John Lynch says. "That's really exciting."

OFFENSE Last season, Jimmy Garoppolo endured a bumpy training camp, had a penchant for throwing head-scratching interceptions during the regular season and badly overthrew a potential game-winning deep TD pass to Sanders late in Super Bowl LIV.

Those warts aside, Garoppolo directed the NFL's fourth-ranked offense, and the 49ers view him as still ascending given his relative inexperience (26 career starts). In 2019, he was the only NFL QB to rank among the top five in passing touchdowns, completion percentage and yards per attempt and had the fourth-most passing yards in franchise history.

The addition of Aiyuk will give Garoppolo another receiver who excels in racking up yards after the catch. Shanahan is adept at scheming players open, and the 49ers have a trio — Aiyuk, Deebo Samuel and All-Pro tight end George Kittle — who make defenders miss. Last year, Aiyuk led the nation in average yards after catch (11.1). Kittle and Samuel ranked third and 13th in the NFL, respectively, in total yards gained after receptions.

The 49ers don't have much proven depth among their receivers. Samuel and Kendrick Bourne are the only returning wideouts who had more than 30 receptions. At tight end, Kittle's primary backup is Ross Dwelley, a former undrafted free agent with limitations.

Running back depth wasn't a problem: Raheem Mostert, Tevin Coleman and Matt Breida each had more than 500 rushing yards as they joined "Million Dollar Backfield" members Joe Perry, John Henry Johnson and Hugh McElhenny (1954) as the only trio in franchise history to accomplish the feat in a season. But the 49ers traded Breida to the Dolphins, and there's not a clear No. 3. The good news is that the 49ers could have a full season with Mostert as their lead back. The journeyman took over the role in December, and his speed and quick decision-making made him a monster in Shanahan's zone-blocking scheme. Mostert led NFL running backs in yards per carry (5.6) and rushed for 715 yards and 11 TDs in his final eight games, including the playoffs.

On the offensive line, it's borderline sacrilegious to say, given Staley's brilliant 13-season career, but the 49ers might have upgraded with Williams. The seven-time Pro Bowler spent his first four seasons with Shanahan in Washington, and like Staley, his athleticism makes him ideally suited for a system that prioritizes movement skills in its linemen. The 49ers return three stalwarts in right tackle Mike McGlinchey, left guard Laken Tomlinson and center Weston Richburg, who sustained a torn patellar tendon in December. The have an opening at right guard after releasing Mike Person in March. The leading can-

2020 SCHEDULE

2019 NFL RANKINGS

Date	Opponent	Time	2019 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 13	Arizona	4:25	5-10-1	341.7 (21)	402.0 (32)	22.6 (t16)	27.6 (28)
Sept. 20	at N.Y. Jets	1:00	7-9	273.0 (32)	323.1 (7)	17.2 (31)	22.4 (16)
Sept. 27	at N.Y. Giants	1:00	4-12	338.5 (23)	377.3 (25)	21.3 (t18)	28.2 (30)
Oct. 4	Philadelphia	8:20	9-7	360.8 (14)	331.7 (10)	24.1 (12)	22.1 (15)
Oct. 11	Miami	4:05	5-11	310.0 (27)	397.8 (30)	19.1 (25)	30.9 (32)
Oct. 18	L.A. Rams	8:20	9-7	374.9 (7)	339.6 (13)	24.6 (11)	22.8 (17)
Oct. 25	at New England	4:25	12-4	354.0 (15)	275.9 (1)	26.2 (7)	14.1 (1)
Nov. 1	at Seattle	4:25	11-5	374.4 (8)	381.6 (26)	25.3 (9)	24.9 (22)
Nov. 5	Green Bay (Thu.)	8:20	13-3	345.5 (18)	352.6 (18)	23.5 (15)	19.6 (9)
Nov. 15	at New Orleans	4:25	13-3	373.9 (9)	333.1 (11)	28.6 (t3)	21.3 (13)
BYE							
Nov. 29	at L.A. Rams	4:05	9-7	374.9 (7)	339.6 (13)	24.6 (11)	22.8 (17)
Dec. 7	Buffalo (Mon.)	8:15	10-6	330.2 (24)	298.3 (3)	19.6 (23)	16.2 (2)
Dec. 13	Washington	4:25	3-13	274.7 (31)	385.1 (27)	16.6 (32)	27.2 (27)
Dec. 20	at Dallas	8:20	8-8	431.5 (1)	327.0 (9)	27.1 (6)	20.1 (11)
Dec.26/27	at Arizona	TBD	5-10-1	341.7 (21)	402.0 (32)	22.6 (t16)	27.6 (28)
Jan. 3	Seattle	4:25	11-5	374.4 (8)	381.6 (26)	25.3 (9)	24.9 (22)

Peter Brouillet

Nick Bosa

DEFENSIVE END

2019 RESULTS (13-3)

Sept.	**8**	at Tampa Bay	W	31-17
Sept.	**15**	at Cincinnati	W	41-17
Sept.	**22**	Pittsburgh	W	24-20
Oct.	**7**	Cleveland	W	31-3
Oct.	**13**	at L.A. Rams	W	20-7
Oct.	**20**	at Washington	W	9-0
Oct.	**27**	Carolina	W	51-13
Oct.	**31**	at Arizona	W	28-25
Nov.	**11**	Seattle (ot)	L	24-27
Nov.	**17**	Arizona	W	36-26
Nov.	**24**	Green Bay	W	37-8
Dec.	**1**	at Baltimore	L	17-20
Dec.	**8**	at New Orleans	W	48-46
Dec.	**15**	Atlanta	L	22-29
Dec.	**21**	L.A. Rams	W	34-31
Dec.	**29**	at Seattle	W	26-21
Postseason				
Jan.	**11**	Minnesota	W	27-10
Jan.	**19**	Green Bay	W	37-20
Feb.	**2**	vs. Kansas City	L	20-31

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	**ATT**	**COMP**	**YDS**	**TD**	**INT**
Jimmy Garoppolo	476	329	3,978	27	13

RUSHING	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Raheem Mostert	137	772	5.6	8
Matt Breida	123	623	5.1	1
Tevin Coleman	137	544	4.0	6
Deebo Samuel	14	159	11.4	3

RECEIVING	**REC**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
George Kittle	85	1,053	12.4	5
Deebo Samuel	57	802	14.1	3
Emmanuel Sanders	36	502	13.9	3
Kendrick Bourne	30	358	11.9	5
Kyle Juszczyk	20	239	12.0	1

KICKING: Robbie Gould, 23-31 FGs, 41-42 PAT, 110 points

TACKLES: Fred Warner, 118; Dre Greenlaw, 92

SACKS: Arik Armstead, 10.0; Nick Bosa, 9.0

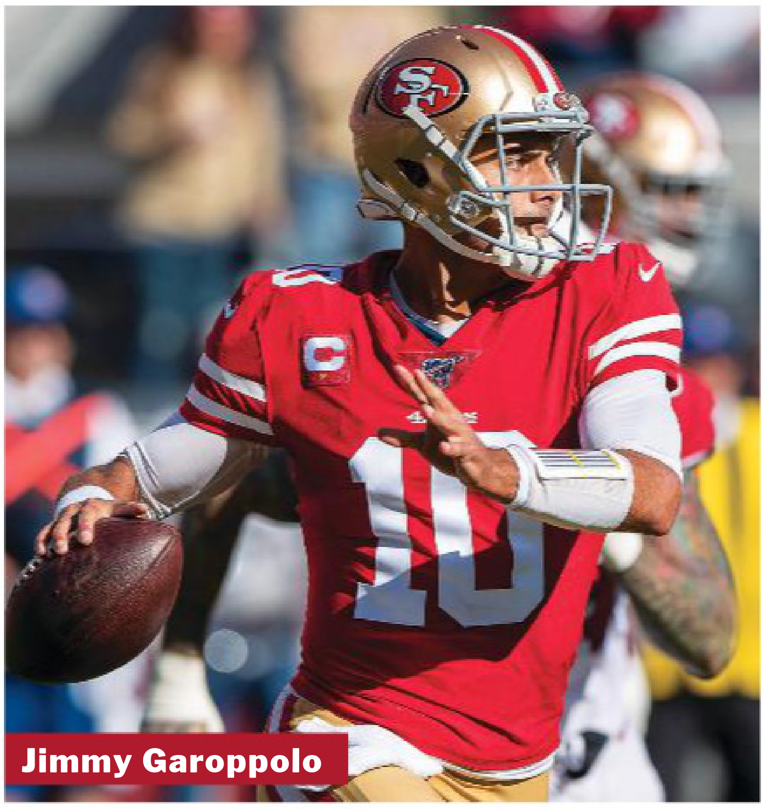
INTERCEPTIONS: Richard Sherman, 3; K'Waun Williams, 2

2019 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	381.1	4	3
Rushing	144.1	2	1
Passing	237.0	13	8
Scoring	29.9	2	1
Third Down %	44.4	5	3
Punt Returns	8.0	T9	4
Kick Returns	20.5	27	13

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	281.8	2	1
Rushing	112.6	17	8
Passing	169.2	1	1
Scoring	19.4	8	3
Interceptions	12	T17	T8
Sacks	48	T5	T4
Turnover Differential	+4	T10	5

didate to assume the spot is Daniel Brunskill, who will have competition from free agent addition Tom Compton.


Jimmy Garoppolo

Peter Brouillet

DEFENSE The 49ers' second-ranked defense was headlined by a relentless front that included four first-round picks: Buckner, Arik Armstead, Dee Ford and Nick Bosa, the NFL's Defensive Rookie of the Year. The 49ers tied for fifth in sacks, and they pointed to their ability to consistently harass passers as the biggest reason for their nine-win improvement. "One of the most tangible reasons we were in a Super Bowl last year," Lynch says, "was because when we were healthy, we overwhelmed people from a defensive-line perspective."

It was a surprise when they traded Buckner, a move they made because of finances. But the deal helped them retain two other key defensive starters, as Armstead and free safety Jimmie Ward were signed to lucrative contract extensions.

A key to the season could be how quickly Kinlaw develops. His size, strength and explosiveness made him the No. 14 pick, but he's unpolished, and his list of medical issues includes knee tendinitis that sidelined him at the combine.

The second level in the 4-3 system is manned by Fred Warner, Kwon Alexander and Dre Greenlaw, fast and undersized linebackers who excel in pass coverage. They were the primary reason the 49ers allowed the fewest receiving yards to tight ends (552) last season. There are concerns about Alexander's availability after he missed the final eight regular-season games with a torn pectoral. Their top backup could be Azeez Al-Shaair, an undrafted free agent who played sparingly as a rookie.

Last year, the 49ers allowed the fewest passing yards since the 2009 Jets. A major reason for that was cornerback Richard Sherman, who recaptured his All-Pro form after returning from surgery on both Achilles in 2018. However, the 49ers' pass rush certainly played a role, and if there's a dropoff without Buckner, it's possible that weaknesses in the back end could be exposed. The soft spot might be at right cornerback, where Ahkello Witherspoon has endured multiple benchings. He was capably replaced by Emmanuel Moseley, but the 2018 undrafted free agent has made just nine career starts and ended his strong season on a sour note: His fourth-quarter coverage gaffe in the Super Bowl led to a 44-yard reception by Tyreek Hill that was the catalyst for Kansas City's comeback. K'Waun Williams returns for his fourth season as one of the league's top slot corners.

The back end is in good hands with Ward and strong safety Jaquiski Tartt — if they can stay healthy. They have combined to miss 44 games due to injuries over the past four seasons. Their presumptive backups, free safety Tarvarius Moore and strong safety Marcell Harris, both earned mixed reviews in fill-in roles in 2019.

SPECIALISTS Last year, Robbie Gould had a 74.2 field-goal percentage, the worst of his decorated 15-year career. However, his early-season struggles were partly tied to the rotating cast of long snappers the 49ers used while Kyle Nelson served a suspension. Gould made his final 17 attempts, including the playoffs, shortly after Nelson returned. Punter Mitch Wishnowsky, a fourth-round pick, had a slightly disappointing rookie season given his draft position: He ranked 14th in the NFL in net average (41.6 yards) and 22nd in punts inside the 20-yard line (23). Richie James Jr. ranked eighth in the NFL on punt returns (8.0) and 15th on kickoffs among qualified players (21.4).

FINAL ANALYSIS The 49ers couldn't afford to bring everyone back, but they kept their core largely intact. Their 2020 edition still boasts elite talent: Bosa, Sherman, Kittle and Williams are among the NFL's best at their positions, and Warner and McGlinchey could soon join them. If Garoppolo can make a leap into the league's elite QBs, that could easily compensate for what's been lost elsewhere with Buckner and Sanders. Shanahan, the offensive coordinator when the Falcons lost a 25-point lead to the Patriots in Super Bowl LI, has endured two crushing Super Bowl losses in the past four seasons. This roster will give him another chance to appear in the NFL's biggest game.

Scouting the 49ers

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP SAN FRANCISCO "Will head coach and play-caller Kyle Shanahan be able to get past another Super Bowl loss, and can QB Jimmy Garoppolo play another full season healthy? If so, this team will be poised to make another Super Bowl run. … They had the No. 2 rushing attack, led by a Cinderella story in Raheem Mostert and reliable veteran Tevin Coleman, but they traded away shifty RB Matt Breida. They have an explosive playmaker in WR Deebo Samuel, a possession WR in Kendrick Bourne, and they drafted dynamic WR Brandon Aiyuk in the first round. … George Kittle is arguably the best TE in the NFL, but they must add solid depth behind him. … This was a top-five OL unit last season with their strength being at OT. With the retirement of longtime LT Joe Staley, they made a trade for All-Pro LT Trent Williams, which could be a net gain. … Defensive coordinator Robert Saleh will be a head coach next season if the defense plays like a top-five unit again. They re-signed DT Arik Armstead but traded away stud DT DeForest Buckner for a first-round pick, turning that pick into disruptive DT Javon Kinlaw. DE Nick Bosa was in the conversation for Defensive Player of the Year as a rookie, and speed rusher Dee Ford was a complementary piece opposite him. … They have a young and fast ILB unit featuring Kwon Alexander, Fred Warner and Dre Greenlaw. … CB Richard Sherman is the leader of this DB unit. They have a rotation at the No. 2 CB spot with Emmanuel Moseley and Ahkello Witherspoon, but no standouts at the safety position. … They're in the most competitive division in the NFL, and we will see this season if the gold rush is here to stay."

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
WR	Travis Benjamin	L.A. Chargers
G	Tom Compton	N.Y. Jets
DE	Kerry Hyder	Dallas
LB	Joe Walker	Arizona
OT	Trent Williams	Washington

KEY LOSSES −

POS.	PLAYER	2020 TEAM
DT	DeForest Buckner	Indianapolis
DT	Sheldon Day	Indianapolis
LB	Elijah Lee	Detroit
WR	Emmanuel Sanders	New Orleans
OT	Joe Staley	Retired
TE	Levine Toilolo	N.Y. Giants
DE	Anthony Zettel	Minnesota

Offseason Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR	19	Deebo Samuel	14	Jalen Hurd
WR	11	Brandon Aiyuk (R)	84	Kendrick Bourne
LT		Trent Williams	78	Shon Coleman
LG	75	Laken Tomlinson	76	Ross Reynolds
C	58	Weston Richburg	63	Ben Garland
RG	60	Daniel Brunskill	66	Tom Compton
RT	69	Mike McGlinchey	67	Justin Skule
TE	85	George Kittle	82	Ross Dwelley
QB	10	Jimmy Garoppolo	4	Nick Mullens
RB	31	Raheem Mostert	26	Tevin Coleman
FB	44	Kyle Juszczyk	49	Josh Hokit (R)

DEFENSE

DE	97	Nick Bosa	98	Ronald Blair III
DT	91	Arik Armstead	94	Solomon Thomas
DT	99	Javon Kinlaw (R)	93	D.J. Jones
DE	55	Dee Ford	92	Kerry Hyder
ILB	54	Fred Warner	51	Azeez Al-Shaair
ILB	56	Kwon Alexander	59	Joe Walker
WLB	57	Dre Greenlaw	53	Mark Nzeocha
CB	25	Richard Sherman	23	Ahkello Witherspoon
CB	41	Emmanuel Moseley	35	Tim Harris
SS	29	Jaquiski Tartt	36	Marcell Harris
FS	20	Jimmie Ward	33	Tarvarius Moore

SPECIALISTS

K	9	Robbie Gould	KR	13	Richie James
P	6	Mitch Wishnowsky	PR	13	Richie James

2020 VETERAN

49ERS ROSTER

	QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
3	Beathard, C.J.	QB	6-2	215	3	Iowa	D3b-17	D3b-SF-17
10	Garoppolo, Jimmy	QB	6-2	225	6	Eastern Illinois	T-NE-17	D2-NE-14
4	Mullens, Nick	QB	6-1	210	2	Southern Miss	FA-17	FA-SF-17

	RUNNING BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
26	Coleman, Tevin	RB	6-1	210	5	Indiana	FA-Atl-19	D3-Atl-15
44	Juszczyk, Kyle	FB	6-1	235	7	Harvard	FA-17	D4-Bal-13
28	McKinnon, Jerick	RB	5-9	205	6	Georgia Southern	FA-Min-18	D3b-Min-14
31	Mostert, Raheem	RB	5-10	205	5	Purdue	FA-16	FA-Phi-15
30	Wilson Jr., Jeff	RB	6-0	213	2	North Texas	FA-18	FA-SF-18

	RECEIVERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
17	Benjamin, Travis	WR	5-10	175	8	Miami	FA-LAC-20	D4-Cle-12
84	Bourne, Kendrick	WR	6-1	190	3	Eastern Washington	FA-17	FA-SF-17
82	Dwelley, Ross	TE	6-5	235	2	San Diego	FA-18	FA-SF-18
43	Helm, Daniel	TE	6-4	255	1	Duke	W-LAC-19	FA-LAC-19
14	Hurd, Jalen	WR	6-4	230	1	Baylor	D3-19	D3-SF-19
13	James Jr., Richie	WR	5-9	185	2	Middle Tennessee	D7b-18	D7b-SF-18
85	Kittle, George	TE	6-4	250	3	Iowa	D5a-17	D5a-SF-17
18	Pettis, Dante	WR	6-1	195	2	Washington	D2-18	D2-SF-18
1	Poindexter, Shawn	WR	6-5	213	1	Arizona	FA-19	FA-SF-19
19	Samuel, Deebo	WR	6-0	215	1	South Carolina	D2-19	D2-SF-19
15	Taylor, Trent	WR	5-8	180	3	Louisiana Tech	D5b-17	D5b-SF-17
89	Thompson, Chris	WR	6-0	175	2	Florida	FA-19	FA-Hou-17

	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
65	Amichia, Kofi	OL	6-3	305	1	South Florida	FA-19	D6-GB-17
64	Brendel, Jake	OL	6-4	299	3	UCLA	FA-20	FA-Dal-16
60	Brunskill, Daniel	OL	6-5	300	1	San Diego State	FA-19	FA-Atl-17
78	Coleman, Shon	T	6-5	310	4	Auburn	T-Cle-18	D3-Cle-16
66	Compton, Tom	G	6-6	315	7	South Dakota	FA-NYJ-20	D6-Was-12
63	Garland, Ben	OL	6-5	304	6	Air Force	FA-Atl-19	FA-Den-10
71	Jones-Smith, Jaryd	OL	6-7	345	1	Pittsburgh	FA-19	FA-Hou-18
69	McGlinchey, Mike	T	6-8	310	2	Notre Dame	D1-18	D1-SF-18
76	Reynolds, Ross	G	6-4	300	1	Iowa	FA-19	FA-SF-19
58	Richburg, Weston	C/G	6-4	295	6	Colorado State	FA-NYG-18	D2-NYG-14
67	Skule, Justin	OL	6-6	315	1	Vanderbilt	D6b-19	D6b-SF-19
75	Tomlinson, Laken	OL	6-3	315	5	Duke	T-Det-17	D1-Det-15
61	Wester, Leonard	OL	6-6	305	3	Missouri Western	FA-20	FA-TB-16
	Williams, Trent	T	6-5	320	10	Oklahoma	T-Was-20	D1-Was-10

	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
91	Armstead, Arik	DL	6-7	290	5	Oregon	D1-15	D1-SF-15
64	Barrett, Alex	DL	6-2	250	1	San Diego State	FA-19	FA-Det-17
98	Blair III, Ronald	DL	6-4	270	4	Appalachian State	D5a-16	D5a-SF-16
97	Bosa, Nick	DL	6-4	266	1	Ohio State	D1-19	D1-SF-19
55	Ford, Dee	DL	6-2	252	6	Auburn	T-KC-19	D1-KC-14
90	Givens, Kevin	DL	6-1	285	1	Penn State	FA-19	FA-SF-19
64	Henry, Willie	DL	6-3	288	2	Michigan	FA-20	D4-Bal-16
92	Hyder, Kerry	DE	6-2	275	4	Texas Tech	FA-Dal-20	FA-NYJ-14
93	Jones, D.J.	DL	6-0	305	3	Ole Miss	D6a-17	D6a-SF-17
61	Kongbo, Jonathan	DL	6-5	254	1	Tennessee	FA-20	FA-SF-20
66	Smith, Ray	DL	6-1	302	1	Boston College	FA-19	FA-Det-19
95	Street, Kentavius	DL	6-2	287	1	NC State	D4-18	D4-SF-18
77	Taylor, Jullian	DL	6-5	305	2	Temple	D7a-18	D7a-SF-18
94	Thomas, Solomon	DL	6-3	280	3	Stanford	D1a-17	D1a-SF-17

	LINEBACKERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
56	Alexander, Kwon	LB	6-1	227	5	LSU	FA-TB-19	D4-TB-15
50	Alfieri, Joey	LB	6-3	239	1	Stanford	FA-19	FA-Phi-19
51	Al-Shaair, Azeez	LB	6-2	228	1	Florida Atlantic	FA-19	FA-SF-19
45	Flannigan-Fowles, Demetrius	LB	6-2	210	1	Arizona	FA-19	FA-SF-19
57	Greenlaw, Dre	LB	6-0	230	1	Arkansas	D5-19	D5-SF-19
53	Nzeocha, Mark	LB	6-3	235	5	Wyoming	FA-17	D7-Dal-15
59	Walker, Joe	LB	6-2	236	4	Oregon	FA-Ari-20	D7-Phi-16
54	Warner, Fred	LB	6-3	230	2	BYU	D3a-18	D3a-SF-18

	DEFENSIVE BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
46	Edwards, Chris	DB	6-1	218	1	Idaho	FA-20	FA-Oak-16
35	Harris Jr., Tim	CB	6-1	205	1	Virginia	D6c-19	D6c-SF-19
36	Harris, Marcell	S	6-0	215	2	Florida	D6-18	D6-SF-18
35	Johnson, Dontae	CB	6-2	200	6	NC State	FA-19	D4-SF-14
48	Kelly, Jermaine	CB	6-1	204	2	San Jose State	FA-19	D7-Hou-18
38	Kindred, Derrick	S	5-10	208	3	TCU	FA-20	D4-Cle-16
33	Moore, Tarvarius	DB	6-2	200	2	Southern Miss	D3b-18	D3b-SF-18
41	Moseley, Emmanuel	CB	5-11	190	2	Tennessee	FA-18	FA-SF-18
32	Reed Jr., D.J.	DB	5-9	193	2	Kansas State	D5-18	D5-SF-18
25	Sherman, Richard	CB	6-3	205	9	Stanford	FA-Sea-18	D5a-Sea-11
40	Tabor, Teez	CB	6-0	201	3	Florida	FA-19	D2-Det-17
29	Tartt, Jaquiski	S	6-1	215	5	Samford	D2-15	D2-SF-15
46	Thieneman, Jacob	S	6-1	215	1	Purdue	FA-19	FA-NYG-19
27	Verrett, Jason	CB	5-10	188	6	TCU	FA-LAC-19	D1-LAC-14
20	Ward, Jimmie	DB	5-11	195	6	Northern Illinois	D1-14	D1-SF-14
24	Williams, K'Waun	CB	5-9	185	5	Pittsburgh	FA-17	FA-Cle-14
23	Witherspoon, Ahkello	CB	6-3	195	3	Colorado	D3a-17	D3a-SF-17

	SPECIALISTS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
9	Gould, Robbie	K	6-0	190	15	Penn State	FA-17	FA-NE-05
86	Nelson, Kyle	LS	6-2	240	8	New Mexico State	FA-14	FA-NO-11
6	Wishnowsky, Mitch	P	6-2	220	1	Utah	D4-19	D4-SF-19

Paul Abell

49ERS in the Draft | Grade: A-

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	**Javon Kinlaw**	**DT**	**6-5**	**319**	**South Carolina**
1.	Brandon Aiyuk	WR	6-0	200	Arizona State
5.	Colton McKivitz	OT	6-6	301	West Virginia
6.	Charlie Woerner	TE	6-5	241	Georgia
7.	Jauan Jennings	WR	6-3	212	Tennessee

Javon Kinlaw was an All-American whose man-against-boys performance in the first two practices at the Senior Bowl wowed NFL evaluators. The 49ers traded up for Brandon Aiyuk because he has the run-after-catch ability that Kyle Shanahan prizes. Shanahan says he rated Aiyuk and Oklahoma's CeeDee Lamb as the draft's best wideouts. Still, Kinlaw has a hefty medical file and Aiyuk, a juco transfer, had just one season of strong production at the Division I level. Jauan Jennings could be a seventh-round steal: He lacks speed, but he is a rugged runner who led FBS wideouts by forcing 30 missed tackles last year and ranked fifth in the SEC in receiving yards (969).

Outside the Huddle

FROM JOURNEYMAN TO THE MAN Running back Raheem Mostert wasn't drafted in 2015, was cut by six teams in his first 17 months in the NFL and entered the 2019 season with 297 rushing yards and more fumbles (three) than touchdowns (one). Including three playoff games, Mostert had 1,108 yards and 15 total TDs last season.

ON THE BRIGHT SIDE There was a significant silver lining to the 49ers' Super Bowl loss: There wasn't a victory parade with a swarm of humanity in downtown San Francisco. Medical experts have said such an event in early February could have proven deadly, as the Bay Area was one of the first coronavirus hotspots. "The gift we may have been given was the 49ers losing," says Dr. Niraj Sehgal, the head of UC San Francisco's COVID-19 Command Center.

STILL SEEING RED Head coach Kyle Shanahan is widely viewed as one of the NFL's best play-callers. For good reason: His teams have ranked in the top 10 in total offense in seven of his 12 seasons as a head coach or offensive coordinator. However, Shanahan's teams have ranked among the league's top 10 in red-zone TD percentage just twice in 12 seasons. Last year, the 49ers ranked fourth in total offense and 21st in the red zone.

SHORT SCORES The 49ers did improve in the red zone following their No. 32 ranking in 2018. One reason for the uptick in performance was wide receiver Kendrick Bourne. He led the team with six receiving TDs, including playoff games, and all were near the goal line. His scores came on catches of 10, 7, 6, 6, 3 and 2 yards.

A NATURAL, BUD George Kittle, the 49ers' outgoing and personable tight end, debuted as a pitchman for Bud Light during the NFL Draft in April. The light-hearted commercials promised "146 draft tips" from Kittle, an All-Pro who was pick No. 146 in 2017. Kittle offered pointers on subjects ranging from awkward hugs to sweatpants.

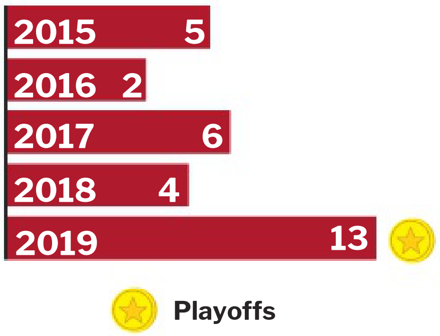
HISTORIC START Kittle's 2,945 receiving yards are the most by a tight end in his first three seasons in NFL history. Hall of Famer Mike Ditka (2,774) and Tampa Bay's Rob Gronkowski (2,663) rank second and third.

MAJOR HOUSECLEANING Shanahan and GM John Lynch inherited a roster in 2017 that included 31 of former GM Trent Baalke's draft picks. Their current roster includes five: defensive linemen Arik Armstead and Ronald Blair and defensive backs Jimmie Ward, Jaquiski Tartt and Dontae Johnson.

GOOD COMPANY, KID Wide receiver Deebo Samuel's 802 receiving yards last year were the most by a 49ers rookie since Jerry Rice in 1985 (927). The second-round pick also set a franchise record for rookies with three 100-yard receiving games and led NFL wide receivers in rushing yards (159) and rushing touchdowns (three).

LESS OFFENSIVE The 49ers entered 2019 as a long-running offensive embarrassment. They were one of three teams — with the Titans and Dolphins — that hadn't ranked in the NFL's top 10 in points or yards per game since 2003. They ranked second in points and fourth in yards to snap the streak. The Titans ranked 10th in points, leaving Miami alone with the dubious distinction.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



NUMBERS TO KNOW

7.0

The 49ers allowed an average target distance of 7.0 yards in 2019, lowest in the NFL.

5.9

San Francisco's offense averaged a league-high 5.9 yards after catch per completion in 2019 per Sportradar data.

67.5

Jimmy Garoppolo's 67.5 percent expected completion percentage was the third-highest in the NFL per NFL Next Gen Stats.

Seattle
SEAHAWKS

NFC West Forecast: 2

THE ORGANIZATION

Chairman: Paul G. Allen Trust
Executive VP/General Manager: John Schneider
V.P. of Football Admin.: Matt Thomas
Co-Directors of Player Personnel: Scott Fitterer, Trent Kirchner
Stadium: CenturyLink Field (72,000)
Surface: FieldTurf
Website: www.seahawks.com
Tickets: 888-NFL-HAWK (635-4295)
Training Camp: Virginia Mason Athletic Center (Renton, Wash.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Pete Carroll
Record With Team: 100-59-1
Career Record: 133-90-1
Offensive Coordinator: Brian Schottenheimer
Defensive Coordinator: Ken Norton Jr.
Special Teams Coordinator: Brian Schneider
Quarterbacks: Austin Davis
Running Backs: Chad Morton
Wide Receivers: Nate Carroll
Tight Ends: Pat McPherson
Offensive Line: Mike Solari
Assistant Head Coach/Defensive Line: Clint Hurtt
Linebackers: John Glenn
Secondary: Nick Sorensen

Russell Wilson is the NFL's highest-paid player ever at $35 million annually, and he made that generous investment pay off in 2019, enjoying the finest season of his eight in Seattle. Yet it still wasn't enough to reward the franchise with another Super Bowl. Recognizing that Wilson won't be in his prime forever, the Seahawks spent the offseason addressing the most glaring needs around him.

They picked up four veteran offensive linemen and another in the draft in their continuous efforts to upgrade Wilson's inconsistent protection and beef up the depth. Often one pass-catcher shy last season, they added tight end Greg Olsen and speedy wide receiver Phillip Dorsett II to plug this gap.

"The whole idea is to put it together to give him the best opportunities to strike you dead in the passing game," coach Pete Carroll says. "There's nobody over the last handful of years better throwing the ball down the field than Russell."

Since winning and losing Super Bowls with Wilson in charge in the 2013 and 2014 seasons, the Seahawks have never been far from a championship game return. They're still not, as long as their well-paid leader gets some help.

OFFENSE For much of last season, Wilson arguably was the best quarterback in the NFL. He was sensational throughout the regular-season schedule, completing 66 percent of his passes for 4,110 yards and 31 touchdowns, while throwing just five interceptions. He had a 106.3 quarterback rating, the third highest of his career. But he couldn't do it all alone. Wilson lost his center, left tackle, tight end and top two running backs to injury, and largely because of that, the Seahawks got only as far as the second round of the playoffs.

The Seahawks made it an offseason priority to replenish the O-line after Wilson was sacked a league-high 48 times. The most experienced newcomers are guard Chance Warmack and tackle Brandon Shell, 51- and 40-game NFL starters, respectively, and low-cost options. Warmack is a bit of a gamble, having sat out 2019 with a hand injury and much of two of the three previous seasons. Provided he can push aside oft-injured Mike Iupati, Warmack will team with rookie Damien Lewis, whose leverage and strength coming from LSU made D.J. Fluker expendable. Shell replaces the embattled Germain Ifedi, who wore out his welcome by becoming the most penalized man in the league. Shell committed just four penalties last season compared to Ifedi's 14. The newcomers join the lone returning starter, left tackle Duane Brown. Brown, a four-time Pro Bowl selection, is coming off knee surgery and will try to show he's got something left.

The Seahawks acquired B.J. Finney to man the center position. The former Pittsburgh Steeler has given up just two sacks in more than 1,000 snaps.

Seattle had one of the NFL's better running-back duos last season in Chris Carson and Rashaad Penny, the slasher and the improviser, until it lost both of them after they'd gained 1,600 yards and scored 10 TDs. Carson fractured a hip that didn't require surgery, and Penny suffered an ACL tear that did. For insurance purposes, Seahawks acquired veteran Carlos Hyde, who rushed for 1,070 yards and six scores for the Texans. They've learned, after bringing back Marshawn Lynch for the playoffs, that you can't have too many running backs.

While Wilson always does a nice job of utilizing the receivers he has on hand, the Seahawks keep trying to give him more support. Last year it was DK Metcalf, a steal in the 2019 second round who caught 58 passes for 900

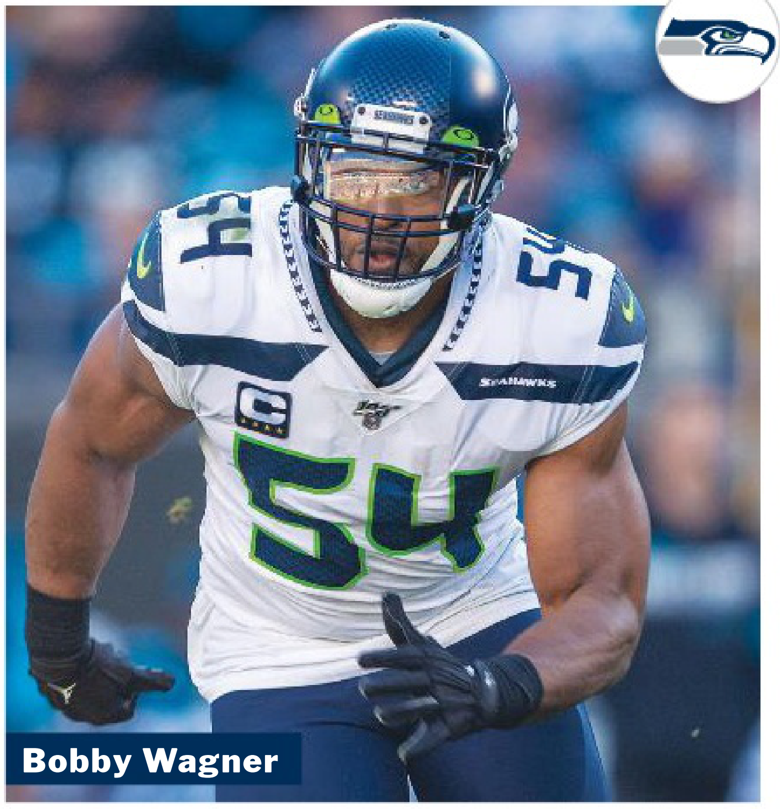
2020 SCHEDULE

2019 NFL RANKINGS

Date	Opponent	Time	2019 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 13	at Atlanta	1:00	7-9	379.7 (5)	355.8 (20)	23.8 (13)	24.9 (23)
Sept. 20	New England	8:20	12-4	354.0 (15)	275.9 (1)	26.2 (7)	14.1 (1)
Sept. 27	Dallas	4:25	8-8	431.5 (1)	327.0 (9)	27.1 (6)	20.1 (11)
Oct. 4	at Miami	1:00	5-11	310.0 (27)	397.8 (30)	19.1 (25)	30.9 (32)
Oct. 11	Minnesota	8:20	10-6	353.5 (16)	341.6 (14)	25.4 (8)	18.9 (t5)
BYE							
Oct. 25	at Arizona	4:05	5-10-1	341.7 (21)	402.0 (32)	22.6 (t16)	27.6 (28)
Nov. 1	San Francisco	4:25	13-3	381.1 (4)	281.8 (2)	29.9 (2)	19.4 (8)
Nov. 8	at Buffalo	1:00	10-6	330.2 (24)	298.3 (3)	19.6 (23)	16.2 (2)
Nov. 15	at L.A. Rams	4:25	9-7	374.9 (7)	339.6 (13)	24.6 (11)	22.8 (17)
Nov. 19	Arizona (Thu.)	8:20	5-10-1	341.7 (21)	402.0 (32)	22.6 (t16)	27.6 (28)
Nov. 30	at Philadelphia (Mon.)	8:15	9-7	360.8 (14)	331.7 (10)	24.1 (12)	22.1 (15)
Dec. 6	N.Y. Giants	4:05	4-12	338.5 (23)	377.3 (25)	21.3 (t18)	28.2 (30)
Dec. 13	N.Y. Jets	4:05	7-9	273.0 (32)	323.1 (7)	17.2 (31)	22.4 (16)
Dec. 20	at Washington	1:00	3-13	274.7 (31)	385.1 (27)	16.6 (32)	27.2 (27)
Dec. 27	L.A. Rams	4:05	9-7	374.9 (7)	339.6 (13)	24.6 (11)	22.8 (17)
Jan. 3	at San Francisco	4:25	13-3	381.1 (4)	281.8 (2)	29.9 (2)	19.4 (8)

Russell Wilson

QUARTERBACK


Bobby Wagner

yards and seven scores, and whose speed and size made him difficult to cover. This time it's Olsen, a three-time Pro Bowler and 14-year pro coming off a 52-catch season. Besides his exceptional pass-catching ability, he's a blocking upgrade and an insurance policy should promising but repeatedly injured tight end Will Dissly fail to bounce back from a torn Achilles or can't stay on the field for long. For good measure, the Seahawks threw in Dorsett, a 29-catch pickup from the New England Patriots. Pair these guys with Wilson's go-to receiver, Tyler Lockett, who's coming off a career-best 82-catch, 1,057-yard and eight-TD performance, and opposing secondaries might dread going up against this fleet group.

DEFENSE The Seahawks did everything they could to re-sign playmaking end Jadeveon Clowney except pay him what he wanted, so they made an aggressive move in free agency and the draft to try and boost the pass rush. Seattle brought back a pair of former Seahawks in Bruce Irvin, who left in 2015, and Benson Mayowa, who last played in Seattle as a rookie in 2013, and drafted Darrell Taylor and Alton Robinson. Irvin and Mayowa had a combined 15.5 sacks for Carolina and Oakland last season. Taylor might be the best of the four, coming in as a fierce rusher who toughed it out and played effectively with a stress fracture last season at Tennessee. The Seahawks also felt compelled to re-sign defensive tackle Jarran Reed, even though he had his worst season in Seattle, dropping from 12 tackles for a loss in 2018 to zero last year. He teams with Poona Ford, who's undersized and better coming off the bench, but has uncanny leverage.

The linebacking corps remains the strength of the defense, led by inside linebacker Bobby Wagner, the best at his position, and K.J. Wright, his reliable wingman. After eight seasons, Wagner remains in his prime and in 2019 was the league leader in tackles for the second time in four seasons, with 159. A nine-year veteran and similarly ageless, Wright comes off a season in which he rang up a career-high 132 tackles. The Seahawks used their first-round pick on Texas Tech linebacker Jordyn Brooks, a speedy player with a compact frame similar to Wagner's who will be groomed to someday replace him.

The secondary has been adequate, but nothing resembling the Seattle's vaunted and dominant Legion of Boom, and Carroll hasn't been afraid to continually tweak it. Cornerback Tre Flowers was victimized over and over in the playoffs and is a man on the spot. He started slow as well, and the Seahawks considered making a change. The other corner, Shaquill Griffin, was a different story. He didn't register an interception, but his stingy coverage skills earned him a Pro Bowl selection. Griffin finished with a forced incompletion rate of 21.2 percent that ranked second among all cornerbacks and elevated him to another level. The Seahawks went for a free safety upgrade at midseason, bringing in Quandre Diggs for five games, and he was sensational, intercepting three passes and returning one for a score. The coaching staff is eager to have him for 16 games. Strong safety Bradley McDougald remains the steadying influence in the secondary that he's been for three seasons since replacing Kam Chancellor.

SPECIALISTS Punter Michael Dickson and placekicker Jason Myers came off Pro Bowl seasons and weren't nearly as effective in 2019. Dickson saw his average drop from a prolific 48.2 yards per punt to 45.1, while Myers went from 91.7 percent accuracy to 82.1 in field goals. Both finished strong, though. Dickson tied a club record with 34 punts downed inside the 20, and Myers beat San Francisco with a field goal in overtime.

FINAL ANALYSIS Had the Seahawks been able to keep Clowney, they might have been serious Super Bowl contenders. However, they'll have to use Wilson once more to try and outscore the opposition rather than shut it down, and that approach usually doesn't win championships. With this superlative quarterback, anything is possible, but Seattle is likely no better than a playoff team for a round or two without a dominant defense. That doesn't mean Wilson can't win the MVP prize in his ninth season.

2019 RESULTS (11-5)

Sept.	8	Cincinnati	W	21-20
Sept.	15	at Pittsburgh	W	28-26
Sept.	22	New Orleans	L	27-33
Sept.	29	at Arizona	W	27-10
Oct.	3	L.A. Rams	W	30-29
Oct.	13	at Cleveland	W	32-28
Oct.	20	Baltimore	L	16-30
Oct.	27	at Atlanta	W	27-20
Nov.	3	Tampa Bay (ot)	W	40-34
Nov.	11	at San Francisco (ot)	W	27-24
Nov.	24	at Philadelphia	W	17-9
Dec.	2	Minnesota	W	37-30
Dec.	8	at L.A. Rams	L	12-28
Dec.	15	at Carolina	W	30-24
Dec.	22	Arizona	L	13-27
Dec.	29	San Francisco	L	21-26
Postseason				
Jan.	5	at Philadelphia	W	17-9
Jan.	12	at Green Bay	L	23-28

2019 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Russell Wilson	516	341	4,110	31	5

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Chris Carson	278	1,230	4.4	7
Rashaad Penny	65	370	5.7	3
Russell Wilson	75	342	4.6	3
Travis Homer	18	114	6.3	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Tyler Lockett	82	1,057	12.9	8
DK Metcalf	58	900	15.5	7
Jacob Hollister	41	349	8.5	3
David Moore	17	301	17.7	2
Chris Carson	37	266	7.2	2

KICKING: Jason Myers, 23-28 FGs, 40-44 PAT, 109 points

TACKLES: Bobby Wagner, 159; K.J. Wright, 132

SACKS: Rasheem Green, 4.0; Quinton Jefferson, 3.5

INTERCEPTIONS: Three tied with 3

2019 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	374.4	8	6
Rushing	137.5	4	2
Passing	236.9	14	9
Scoring	25.3	9	6
Third Down %	40.2	15	9
Punt Returns	6.1	24	11
Kick Returns	19.6	29	15

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	381.6	26	13
Rushing	117.7	22	12
Passing	263.9	27	12
Scoring	24.9	22	9
Interceptions	16	T5	3
Sacks	28	T29	T14
Turnover Differential	+12	T3	T2

Wilson, Wagner: W.E. Smith

2020 VETERAN SEAHAWKS ROSTER

	QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
3	Wilson, Russell	QB	5-11	215	8	Wisconsin	D3-12	D3-Sea-12
	RUNNING BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
44	Bellore, Nick	FB	6-1	250	9	Central Michigan	FA-19	FA-NYJ-11
32	Carson, Chris	RB	5-11	222	3	Oklahoma State	D7b-17	D7b-Sea-17
25	Homer, Travis	RB	5-10	202	1	Miami	D6a-19	D6a-Sea-19
	Hyde, Carlos	RB	6-0	236	6	Ohio State	FA-Hou-20	D2-SF-14
20	Penny, Rashaad	RB	5-11	220	2	San Diego State	D1-18	D1-Sea-18
	RECEIVERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
88	Dissly, Will	TE	6-4	265	2	Washington	D4-18	D4-Sea-18
11	Dorsett II, Phillip	WR	5-10	192	5	Miami	FA-NE-20	D1-Ind-15
19	Hart, Penny	WR	5-8	180	1	Georgia State	FA-19	FA-Ind-19
48	Hollister, Jacob	TE	6-4	245	3	Wyoming	T-NE-19	FA-NE-17
86	Johnson, Justin	TE	6-3	235	1	Mississippi State	FA-19	FA-Sea-19
16	Lockett, Tyler	WR	5-10	182	5	Kansas State	D3-15	D3-Sea-15
14	Metcalf, DK	WR	6-4	229	1	Ole Miss	D2b-19	D2b-Sea-19
83	Moore, David	WR	6-0	215	3	East Central (OK)	D7a-17	D7a-Sea-17
88	Olsen, Greg	TE	6-5	255	13	Miami	FA-Car-20	D1-Chi-07
81	Thompson, Cody	WR	6-2	205	1	Toledo	FA-20	FA-KC-19
15	Ursua, John	WR	5-9	182	1	Hawaii	D7-19	D7-Sea-19
82	Willson, Luke	TE	6-5	254	7	Rice	FA-19	D5c-Sea-13
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
76	Brown, Duane	T	6-4	315	12	Virginia Tech	T-Hou-17	D1-Hou-08
67	Finney, B.J.	C/G	6-4	318	4	Kansas State	FA-Pit-20	FA-Pit-15
61	Fuller, Kyle	C/G	6-5	320	3	Baylor	FA-19	D7-Hou-17
60	Haynes, Phil	G	6-4	322	1	Wake Forest	D4b-19	D4b-Sea-19
53	Hunt, Joey	C	6-2	299	4	TCU	D6-16	D6-Sea-16
70	Iupati, Mike	G	6-5	331	10	Idaho	FA-Ari-19	D1b-SF-10
73	Jones, Jamarco	T	6-4	293	2	Ohio State	D5d-18	D5d-Sea-18
63	Knox, Demetrius	G	6-4	314	1	Ohio State	FA-19	FA-Sea-19
74	Ogbuehi, Cedric	T	6-5	308	5	Texas A&M	FA-Jac-20	D1-Cin-15
77	Pocic, Ethan	C/G	6-6	320	3	LSU	D2b-17	D2b-Sea-17
64	Roos, Jordan	G	6-3	302	3	Purdue	FA-17	FA-Sea-17
72	Shell, Brandon	T	6-5	324	4	South Carolina	FA-NYJ-20	D5-NYJ-16
66	Simmons, Jordan	G	6-4	339	3	USC	W-LV-18	FA-LV-17
65	Warmack, Chance	G	6-2	323	6	Alabama	FA-20	D1-Ten-13
75	Wheeler, Chad	T	6-7	318	3	USC	FA-19	FA-NYG-17
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
67	Christmas, Demarcus	DT	6-3	302	1	Florida State	D6b-19	D6b-Sea-19
95	Collier, L.J.	DL	6-3	291	1	TCU	D1-19	D1-Sea-19
97	Ford, Poona	DT	5-11	310	2	Texas	FA-18	FA-Sea-18
94	Green, Rasheem	DE	6-4	279	2	USC	D3-18	D3-Sea-18
51	Irvin, Bruce	DE	6-3	258	8	West Virginia	FA-Car-20	D1-Sea-12
93	Jackson, Branden	DE	6-4	295	4	Texas Tech	FA-17	FA-LV-16
99	Mayowa, Benson	DE	6-3	265	7	Idaho	FA-LV-20	FA-Sea-13
79	Mone, Bryan	DT	6-3	345	1	Michigan	FA-19	FA-Sea-19
91	Reed, Jarran	DT	6-3	306	4	Alabama	D2-16	D2-Sea-16
	LINEBACKERS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
57	Barton, Cody	LB	6-2	237	1	Utah	D3-19	D3-Sea-19
55	Burr-Kirven, Ben	LB	6-0	230	1	Washington	D5-19	D5-Sea-19
52	Ellerbee, Emmanuel	LB	6-0	230	2	Rice	W-LAC-18	FA-Atl-18
49	Griffin, Shaquem	LB	6-0	227	2	UCF	D5a-18	D5a-Sea-18
47	Smith, Sutton	LB	6-0	235	1	Northern Illinois	FA-19	D6-Pit-19
54	Wagner, Bobby	LB	6-0	242	8	Utah State	D2-12	D2-Sea-12
50	Wright, K.J.	LB	6-4	246	9	Mississippi State	D4a-11	D4a-Sea-11
	DEFENSIVE BACKS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
40	Allen, Brian	CB	6-3	215	3	Utah	FA-19	D5-Pit-17
28	Amadi, Ugo	DB	5-9	201	1	Oregon	D4c-19	D4c-Sea-19
27	Blair, Marquise	S	6-1	196	1	Utah	D2a-19	D2a-Sea-19
37	Diggs, Quandre	S	5-9	197	5	Texas	T-Det-19	D6-Det-15
21	Flowers, Tre	CB	6-3	203	2	Oklahoma State	D5b-18	D5b-Sea-18
26	Griffin, Shaquill	CB	6-0	198	3	UCF	D3a-17	D3a-Sea-17
42	Hill, Lano	S	6-1	216	3	Michigan	D3b-17	D3b-Sea-17
30	McDougald, Bradley	S	6-1	215	7	Kansas	FA-TB-17	FA-KC-13
35	Neal, Ryan	CB	6-3	200	2	Southern Illinois	FA-19	FA-Phi-18
1	Stanley, Jayson	DB	6-2	207	1	Georgia	W-Jac-20	FA-Atl-19
34	Stephens, Linden	CB	6-0	193	1	Cincinnati	W-Mia-20	FA-NO-18
23	Thorpe, Neiko	CB	6-2	210	7	Auburn	FA-16	FA-KC-12
	SPECIALISTS	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**EXP**	**COLLEGE**	**ACQUIRED**	**ENTRY**
4	Dickson, Michael	P	6-2	208	2	Texas	D5c-18	D5c-Sea-18
5	Myers, Jason	K	5-10	190	5	Marist	FA-NYJ-19	FA-Jac-15
69	Ott, Tyler	LS	6-3	253	5	Harvard	FA-16	FA-NE-14

Scouting the Seahawks

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP SEATTLE "This is one of the most electric cultures in the NFL with head coach Pete Carroll's passion and QB Russell Wilson's swagger. ... This is an RB by committee that finished top five in rushing yards, led by Chris Carson, but he's coming off a season-ending hip injury, and Rashaad Penny has been an underachieving first-round pick and is coming off a torn ACL. ... At WR, they have one of the most underrated deep threats with Tyler Lockett and a physical freak with DK Metcalf, but they need other playmakers such as David Moore and newcomer Phillip Dorsett II to step up. They have a solid TE unit with newly acquired Mr. Clutch Greg Olsen and up-and-comer Will Dissly. ... GM John Schneider spent time in free agency trying to improve an average OL, and they're moving on from longtime veterans Justin Britt, D.J. Fluker and Germain Ifedi. ... At DT, they have good depth and brought back Jarran Reed to pair with relentless Poona Ford. They have big expectations for L.J. Collier, Rasheem Green and rookie Darrell Taylor, and they brought back old friend Bruce Irvin. ... All-Pro Bobby Wagner is arguably the best ILB in the NFL, but with K.J. Wright going into the final year of his contract, they drafted rookie ILB Jordyn Brooks to be Wright's eventual replacement. ... In the secondary, they have a rising superstar in CB Shaquill Griffin and an intriguing project with Tre Flowers. Last year, they made a midseason trade for ball-hawking safety Quandre Diggs that sparked this defense. ... No doubt about making the playoffs, but can they make the extra push for the Super Bowl?"

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
WR	Phillip Dorsett II	New England
OL	B.J. Finney	Pittsburgh
RB	Carlos Hyde	Houston
DL	Bruce Irvin	Carolina
DL	Benson Mayowa	Oakland
OL	Cedric Ogbuehi	Jacksonville
OL	Brandon Shell	N.Y. Jets
OL	Chance Warmack	Philadelphia

KEY LOSSES −

POS.	PLAYER	2020 TEAM
C	Justin Britt	Free Agent
DE	Jadeveon Clowney	Free Agent
OL	George Fant	N.Y. Jets
OG	D.J. Fluker	Baltimore
OL	Germain Ifedi	Chicago
DL	Quinton Jefferson	Buffalo
DL	Al Woods	Jacksonville

Offseason Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR	16	Tyler Lockett	83	David Moore
WR	14	DK Metcalf	18	Freddie Swain (R)
WR	11	Phillip Dorsett II	15	John Ursua
LT	76	Duane Brown	73	Jamarco Jones
LG	65	Chance Warmack	70	Mike Iupati
C	67	B.J. Finney	53	Joey Hunt
RG	68	Damien Lewis (R)	66	Jordan Simmons
RT	72	Brandon Shell	74	Cedric Ogbuehi
TE	88	Greg Olsen	89	Will Dissly
QB	3	Russell Wilson	6	Anthony Gordon (R)
RB	32	Chris Carson		Carlos Hyde

DEFENSE

DE	51	Bruce Irvin	98	Alton Robinson (R)
DT	97	Poona Ford	94	Rasheem Green
DT	91	Jarran Reed	95	L.J. Collier
DE	99	Benson Mayowa	58	Darrell Taylor (R)
LB	56	Jordyn Brooks (R)	49	Shaquem Griffin
LB	54	Bobby Wagner	57	Cody Barton
LB	50	K.J. Wright	55	Ben Burr-Kirven
CB	26	Shaquill Griffin	28	Ugo Amadi
CB	21	Tre Flowers	23	Neiko Thorpe
FS	37	Quandre Diggs	27	Marquise Blair
SS	30	Bradley McDougald	42	Lano Hill

SPECIALISTS

K	5	Jason Myers	KR	16	Tyler Lockett
P	4	Michael Dickson	PR	16	Tyler Lockett

Tim Umphrey

Seahawks *in the Draft* | Grade: B

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	**Jordyn Brooks**	**OLB**	**6-0**	**240**	**Texas Tech**
2.	Darrell Taylor	DE	6-4	267	Tennessee
3.	Damien Lewis	OG	6-2	327	LSU
4.	Colby Parkinson	TE	6-7	252	Stanford
4	DeeJay Dallas	RB	5-10	217	Miami (Fla.)
5.	Alton Robinson	DE	6-3	264	Syracuse
6.	Freddie Swain	WR	6-0	197	Florida
7.	Stephen Sullivan	TE	6-5	248	LSU

The Seahawks used the majority of their draft picks on offensive players, but their emphasis was on improving the pass rush. They added three players who will have a hand in that. Linebacker Jordyn Brooks should become an immediate starter on the outside, before eventually replacing Bobby Wagner on the inside, a player he resembles with his speed and compact frame. The Seahawks traded up to acquire Darrell Taylor, another disruptor coming off the edge, someone who could play his way into the starting lineup. They added Alton Robinson, who used good leverage to ring up big sack numbers. Offensively, Seattle drafted tight ends Colby Parkinson and Stephen Sullivan after injuries left the Seahawks shorthanded at the position in recent seasons. Sullivan is a converted wide receiver.

Outside the Huddle

LUCKY 2013 The Seahawks consider 2013 a very good year. With the offseason acquisition of offensive guard Chance Warmack, they've employed seven of the top 13 picks from that draft. Not bad for a team that didn't have a single first-round selection that year. The roll call of first-rounders acquired, by 2013 draft position, with their seasons in Seattle in parentheses: 2) OG Luke Joeckel (2017); 3) DE Dion Jordan (2017-18); 5) DE Ziggy Ansah (2019); 6) OLB Barkevious Mingo (2018); 10) Warmack; 11) OG D.J. Fluker (2018-19); and 13) DT Sheldon Richardson (2017). Of their 11 lower-round picks in 2013, the Seahawks retain only TE Luke Willson, a fifth-rounder who has come and gone and returned to Seattle.

LURE OF WILSON Wide receiver Phillip Dorsett, a free agent signee from New England, has had the luxury of catching passes from Tom Brady and Andrew Luck. He joined Seattle in the offseason to complete the ultimate quarterback trifecta. "That's one of the biggest reasons why I decided to come," Dorsett says. "Obviously I've been blessed to catch passes from Andrew and Tom, but playing with Russell Wilson is definitely something I've dreamed of. He's someone I've always watched and he's just a magician."

FAST FORWARD Without hesitation, the Seahawks brought back defensive end Bruce Irvin, who played for the team in 2012-15, for a second stint. An eight-year vet, he still possesses a component necessary for league longevity: speed. "The thing that most catches my eye is that he can still run," says Dave Wyman, team TV and radio analyst and a former Seahawks linebacker. "That's the thing in the NFL — you have to be able to run. You've got to have speed, and he has great field speed."

A SHELL GAME Newly acquired offensive tackle Brandon Shell, who spent four seasons as a starter for the New York Jets, brings great genealogy. His great uncle is Art Shell, former Raiders offensive tackle (1968-82) and coach (1989-94, 2006), and a Pro Football Hall of Fame member. The elder Shell, who lives in Atlanta, has mentored the younger one, a South Carolina product, throughout his career. "We went on the field and worked on some things, and watched some film together," Art Shell says.

FEELING NO PAIN Rookie Darrell Taylor played at the University of Tennessee last season with a leg stress fracture. He chose to delay his surgery and tough it out, even playing in the Gator Bowl win over Indiana. "I still had an impressive year, but I think it could have been even better if it wasn't there obviously," he says. "I played through it and I think I had a pretty good season."

ON THE BLOCK? An intriguing offseason tale, widely reported but not substantiated, asserted that the Seahawks and the Browns had engaged in trade talks in 2018 that supposedly involved exchanging quarterback Russell Wilson for Cleveland's No. 1 overall draft pick. Even stranger was former Browns coach Hue Jackson's denial of this deal with a caveat: He said the trade topic never came up but if it had he would have said no to Wilson. He insisted the franchise was all in on drafting Baker Mayfield.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2015	10	★
2016	10	★
2017	9	
2018	10	★
2019	10	★

★ Playoffs

NUMBERS TO KNOW

16.3

Seattle forced a turnover on 16.3 percent of its opponents' possessions, fourth in the NFL.

61.3

Per NFL Next Gen Stats, Russell Wilson had the third-lowest expected completion percentage at 61.3 percent. His actual completion rate was 66.1 percent.

1

Russell Wilson was the only NFL quarterback to take every snap for his team in 2019. Wilson tied for fourth with 1,124 total snaps.

2020 NFL Schedules

WEEK 1

Thursday, Sept. 10
Houston at Kansas City
Sunday, Sept. 13
Seattle at Atlanta
Cleveland at Baltimore
N.Y. Jets at Buffalo
Las Vegas at Carolina
Chicago at Detroit
Indianapolis at Jacksonville
Green Bay at Minnesota
Miami at New England
Philadelphia at Washington
L.A. Chargers at Cincinnati
Tampa Bay at New Orleans
Arizona at San Francisco
Dallas at L.A. Rams
Monday, Sept. 14
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Giants
Tennessee at Denver

WEEK 2

Thursday, Sept. 17
Cincinnati at Cleveland
Sunday, Sept. 20
N.Y. Giants at Chicago
Atlanta at Dallas
Detroit at Green Bay
Minnesota at Indianapolis
Buffalo at Miami
San Francisco at N.Y. Jets
L.A. Rams at Philadelphia
Denver at Pittsburgh
Carolina at Tampa Bay
Jacksonville at Tennessee
Washington at Arizona
Baltimore at Houston
Kansas City at L.A. Chargers
New England at Seattle
Monday, Sept. 21
New Orleans at Las Vegas

WEEK 3

Thursday, Sept. 24
Miami at Jacksonville
Sunday, Sept. 27
Chicago at Atlanta
L.A. Rams at Buffalo
Washington at Cleveland
Tennessee at Minnesota
Las Vegas at New England
San Francisco at N.Y. Giants
Cincinnati at Philadelphia
Houston at Pittsburgh
N.Y. Jets at Indianapolis
Carolina at L.A. Chargers
Detroit at Arizona
Tampa Bay at Denver
Dallas at Seattle
Green Bay at New Orleans
Monday, Sept. 28
Kansas City at Baltimore

WEEK 4

Thursday, Oct. 1
Denver at N.Y. Jets
Sunday, Oct. 4
Arizona at Carolina
Indianapolis at Chicago
Jacksonville at Cincinnati
Cleveland at Dallas
New Orleans at Detroit
Minnesota at Houston
Seattle at Miami
L.A. Chargers at Tampa Bay
Pittsburgh at Tennessee
Baltimore at Washington
N.Y. Giants at L.A. Rams
New England at Kansas City
Buffalo at Las Vegas
Philadelphia at San Francisco
Monday, Oct. 5
Atlanta at Green Bay

WEEK 5

Thursday, Oct. 8
Tampa Bay at Chicago
Sunday, Oct. 11
Carolina at Atlanta
Cincinnati at Baltimore
Jacksonville at Houston
Las Vegas at Kansas City
Denver at New England
Arizona at N.Y. Jets
Philadelphia at Pittsburgh
Buffalo at Tennessee
L.A. Rams at Washington
Miami at San Francisco
Indianapolis at Cleveland
N.Y. Giants at Dallas
Minnesota at Seattle
Monday, Oct. 12
L.A. Chargers at New Orleans
Bye: Detroit, Green Bay

WEEK 6

Thursday, Oct. 15
Kansas City at Buffalo
Sunday, Oct. 18
Chicago at Carolina
Cincinnati at Indianapolis
Detroit at Jacksonville
Atlanta at Minnesota
Washington at N.Y. Giants
Baltimore at Philadelphia
Cleveland at Pittsburgh
Houston at Tennessee
Miami at Denver
N.Y. Jets at L.A. Chargers
Green Bay at Tampa Bay
L.A. Rams at San Francisco
Monday, Oct. 19
Arizona at Dallas
Bye: Las Vegas, New England, New Orleans, Seattle

WEEK 7

Thursday, Oct. 22
N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia
Sunday, Oct. 25
Detroit at Atlanta
Pittsburgh at Baltimore
Cleveland at Cincinnati
Green Bay at Houston
L.A. Chargers at Miami
Carolina at New Orleans
Buffalo at N.Y. Jets
Dallas at Washington
Seattle at Arizona
Kansas City at Denver
San Francisco at New England
Tampa Bay at Las Vegas
Monday, Oct. 26
Chicago at L.A. Rams
Bye: Indianapolis, Jacksonville, Minnesota, Tennessee

WEEK 8

Thursday, Oct. 29
Atlanta at Carolina
Sunday, Nov. 1
New England at Buffalo
Tennessee at Cincinnati
Las Vegas at Cleveland
Indianapolis at Detroit
Minnesota at Green Bay
N.Y. Jets at Kansas City
L.A. Rams at Miami
Jacksonville at L.A. Chargers
New Orleans at Chicago
San Francisco at Seattle
Dallas at Philadelphia
Monday, Nov. 2
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Giants
Bye: Arizona, Baltimore, Denver, Houston, Pittsburgh, Washington

WEEK 9

Thursday, Nov. 5
Green Bay at San Francisco
Sunday, Nov. 8
Denver at Atlanta
Seattle at Buffalo
Baltimore at Indianapolis
Houston at Jacksonville
Carolina at Kansas City
Detroit at Minnesota
Chicago at Tennessee
N.Y. Giants at Washington
Las Vegas at L.A. Chargers
Miami at Arizona
Pittsburgh at Dallas
New Orleans at Tampa Bay
Monday, Nov. 9
New England at N.Y. Jets
Bye: Cincinnati, Cleveland, L.A. Rams, Philadelphia

WEEK 10

Thursday, Nov. 12
Indianapolis at Tennessee
Sunday, Nov. 15
Tampa Bay at Carolina
Houston at Cleveland
Washington at Detroit
Jacksonville at Green Bay
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh
Buffalo at Arizona
Denver at Las Vegas
N.Y. Jets at Miami
Seattle at L.A. Rams
San Francisco at New Orleans
Baltimore at New England
Monday, Nov. 16
Minnesota at Chicago
Bye: Atlanta, Dallas, Kansas City, L.A. Chargers

WEEK 11

Thursday, Nov. 19
Arizona at Seattle
Sunday, Nov. 22
Tennessee at Baltimore
Detroit at Carolina
Philadelphia at Cleveland
New England at Houston
Green Bay at Indianapolis
Pittsburgh at Jacksonville
Atlanta at New Orleans
Cincinnati at Washington
L.A. Chargers at Denver
Dallas at Minnesota
Kansas City at Las Vegas
Monday, Nov. 23
L.A. Rams at Tampa Bay
Bye: Buffalo, Chicago, Miami, N.Y. Giants, N.Y. Jets, San Francisco

WEEK 12

Thursday, Nov. 26
Houston at Detroit
Washington at Dallas
Baltimore at Pittsburgh
Sunday, Nov. 29
Las Vegas at Atlanta
L.A. Chargers at Buffalo
N.Y. Giants at Cincinnati
Tennessee at Indianapolis
Cleveland at Jacksonville
Carolina at Minnesota
Arizona at New England
Miami at N.Y. Jets
New Orleans at Denver
San Francisco at L.A. Rams
Kansas City at Tampa Bay
Chicago at Green Bay
Monday, Nov. 30
Seattle at Philadelphia

WEEK 13

Thursday, Dec. 3
Dallas at Baltimore
Sunday, Dec. 6
New Orleans at Atlanta
Detroit at Chicago
Indianapolis at Houston
Cincinnati at Miami
Jacksonville at Minnesota
Las Vegas at N.Y. Jets
Washington at Pittsburgh
Cleveland at Tennessee
L.A. Rams at Arizona
N.Y. Giants at Seattle
Philadelphia at Green Bay
New England at L.A. Chargers
Denver at Kansas City
Monday, Dec. 7
Buffalo at San Francisco
Bye: Carolina, Tampa Bay

WEEK 14

Thursday, Dec. 10
New England at L.A. Rams
Sunday, Dec. 13
Denver at Carolina
Houston at Chicago
Dallas at Cincinnati
Green Bay at Detroit
Tennessee at Jacksonville
Kansas City at Miami
Arizona at N.Y. Giants
Minnesota at Tampa Bay
Indianapolis at Las Vegas
N.Y. Jets at Seattle
Atlanta at L.A. Chargers
New Orleans at Philadelphia
Washington at San Francisco
Pittsburgh at Buffalo
Monday, Dec. 14
Baltimore at Cleveland

WEEK 15

Thursday, Dec. 17
L.A. Chargers at Las Vegas
Sat./Sun., Dec. 19-20
Buffalo at Denver
Carolina at Green Bay
Houston at Indianapolis
N.Y. Jets at L.A. Rams
Detroit at Tennessee
Sunday, Dec. 20
Tampa Bay at Atlanta
Jacksonville at Baltimore
New England at Miami
Chicago at Minnesota
Cleveland at N.Y. Giants
Seattle at Washington
Philadelphia at Arizona
Kansas City at New Orleans
San Francisco at Dallas
Monday, Dec. 21
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati

WEEK 16

Friday, Dec. 25
Minnesota at New Orleans
Sat./Sun., Dec. 26-27
San Francisco at Arizona
Tampa Bay at Detroit
Denver at L.A. Chargers
Miami at Las Vegas
Cleveland at N.Y. Jets
Sunday, Dec. 27
N.Y. Giants at Baltimore
Cincinnati at Houston
Chicago at Jacksonville
Atlanta at Kansas City
Indianapolis at Pittsburgh
Carolina at Washington
L.A. Rams at Seattle
Philadelphia at Dallas
Tennessee at Green Bay
Monday, Dec. 28
Buffalo at New England

WEEK 17

Sunday, Jan. 3
Miami at Buffalo
New Orleans at Carolina
Green Bay at Chicago
Baltimore at Cincinnati
Pittsburgh at Cleveland
Minnesota at Detroit
Tennessee at Houston
Jacksonville at Indianapolis
L.A. Chargers at Kansas City
N.Y. Jets at New England
Dallas at N.Y. Giants
Washington at Philadelphia
Atlanta at Tampa Bay
Las Vegas at Denver
Arizona at L.A. Rams
Seattle at San Francisco

NFL POSTSEASON

Saturday, Jan. 9
Sunday, Jan. 10, 2021
AFC and NFC Wild Card Playoffs
(ESPN, CBS, FOX, NBC)

Saturday, Jan. 16
Sunday, Jan. 17, 2021
AFC and NFC Divisional Playoffs
(CBS, FOX, NBC)

Sunday, Jan. 24, 2021
AFC and NFC Championship Games
(CBS, FOX)

Sunday, Feb. 7, 2021
Super Bowl LV
Tampa, FL (CBS)

END OF AN ERA

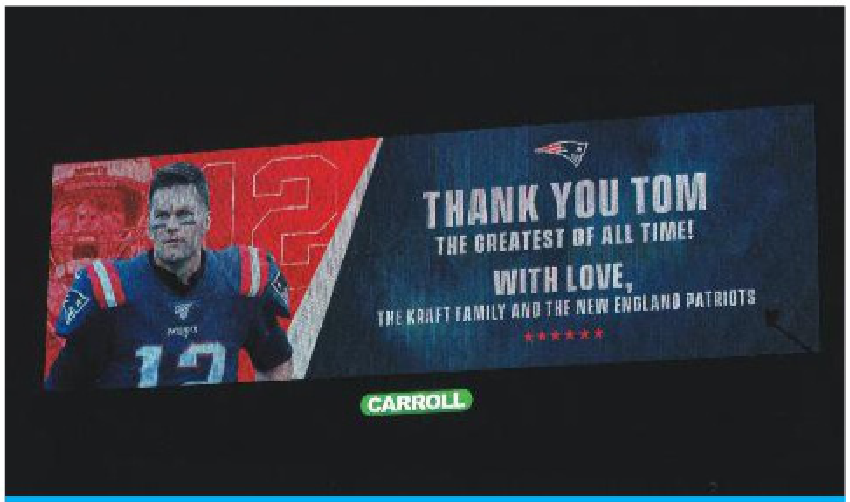
Brady's fourth start, Oct. 21, 2001

On September 23, 2001, the New England Patriots and New York Jets met in Foxboro Stadium as NFL action resumed for the first time since the 9/11 attacks. In the fourth quarter, Jets linebacker Mo Lewis knocked Patriots quarterback Drew Bledsoe out for several games with a chest injury, and backup quarterback Tom Brady came in to take his place. Here's a snapshot of the league on that day:

- Bledsoe was the highest-paid player in the NFL with a $10.3 million annual salary.
- Los Angeles did not have an NFL franchise. The Rams were in St. Louis.
- Drew Brees was a rookie with the San Diego Chargers.
- Jerry Rice was starting the 17th season of a 20-year career with a new team, the Oakland Raiders.
- Peyton Manning was 27–22 as a starter.
- Bill Belichick's record as a head coach was 41–56.
- New England had won only seven playoff games and no championships in the franchise's 40-year history.
- The Patriots were valued at less than a half a billion dollars.
- Jim Harbaugh was a backup quarterback for the Panthers.
- The salary cap was $67.4 million.
- The price of a 30-second Super Bowl television spot was around $2 million.
- After losing their franchise to Baltimore, the new Cleveland Browns had been an NFL team since only 1999.
- There were only 31 NFL franchises, and the divisions were structured differently, most notably with the Seattle Seahawks still being in the AFC West.

With the exception of 2008, when Brady missed almost the entire season with torn ligaments in his left knee, he had been the Patriots starting quarterback ever since — until his final game in red, white and Navy blue, a 20–13 playoff loss to the Titans on Jan. 4, 2020. When he takes the field with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers this season, it will mark the beginning of a new era. Here are some of the things that have happened in pro football since the fall of 2001:

- NFL teams have played 9,642 regular and postseason games.
- Brady has completed passes to more than 100 NFL players.
- The Patriots' value has grown to $4.1 billion.
- New England has won six Super Bowls and become the leader in total playoff wins with 37.
- Bill Belichick is now third all-time in wins by NFL head coaches with 273.
- Seven Patriots coaches have become head coaches.
- Jim Harbaugh has been the head coach of his and Brady's alma mater, Michigan, since 2015.
- The Washington Redskins have had seven head coaches.
- The Cleveland Browns have had 27 starting quarterbacks.
- A total of 240 quarterbacks have been drafted by NFL teams.
- Brandon Marshall played for seven teams.
- The Seahawks moved to the NFC and have been to three Super Bowls.
- Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson is the highest-paid player with a salary of $35 million.
- The NFL salary cap has grown to $198.2 million.
- The price of a Super Bowl television spot is now more than $5 million.
- A total of 132 songs have been performed during Super Bowl halftime shows.
- Fourteen new NFL stadiums have been built.
- Nine franchises have been sold.
- Jerry Rice caught 260 passes for 3,561 yards and 21 touchdowns — not bad for a guy who was almost 39 when Brady took the field.
- Adam Vinatieri has kicked 513 field goals and 767 extra points.
- Frank Gore has played for four teams and rushed for more than 15,000 yards. In 2020, he'll be playing for his fifth team.
- Drew Brees has started 290 games and thrown for more than 82,000 yards in the regular season and postseason.
- Peyton Manning played Brady 17 times (Brady leads the series 11–6) and became the only starting quarterback to win a Super Bowl with two different teams, the Indianapolis Colts and Denver Broncos.
- Manning's younger brother, Eli, played a 16-season career with the New York Giants, won two Super Bowls (both against the Patriots) and retired.
- A total of 115 players, coaches and executives have been inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Brady has played with or against 36 of them.
- Three new leagues — the UFL, AAF, and XFL — were launched, and all three failed.


THANK YOU TOM
THE GREATEST OF ALL TIME!
WITH LOVE,
THE KRAFT FAMILY AND THE NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS
CARROLL

The curtain closes on the Brady era in New England.

Brady: John Ruthroff/AFP via Getty Images; Billboard: M. Anthony Nesmith/Icon via AP

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